HelveticaScans

ヘルベチカ漫画

Shouwa Genroku Rakugo Shinjuu

Chapter 8

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Want to help out?

We offer training!

We're always looking for new recruits!

Kindred

All positions needed!

Name's Too long :(

Shouwa Genroku

Typesetters needed!

Grand Blue

Typesetters & Redrawers needed!

King's Viking

All positions needed!

We also shitpost and have karaoke.

Kikuhiko

Sukeroku

END OF WAR – RETURN TO THE CAPITAL

STINKY!

REUNION!

FUTA-TSUME ERA

CONGRATULATIONS

PROMOTED TO FUTATSUME

祝

Shouwa Genroku Rakugo Shinjuu

Kikuhiko's Struggle RECAP

ARGH...

WORKING IN A FACTORY

CAN'T DO IT...

How worrying...

CONTI-NUED IN VOLUME 3

Kiku-sama!

WHAT WILL DEVELOP BETWEEN HIM AND MIYOKICHI-SAN?

Penniless...

POVERTY

EVACUATION

RUNNING WILD

Scary, so scary!

GRUMBLE

GRUMBLE

POVERTY

So hungry!

POVERTY

You can call me Big Bro

MRR.

S T A R T

MET A STRANGE BOY

GIANT SKUNKS

Come take a look!

RARE SPECIES EXPO

FIRST DATE

I WANT A REFUND...

There weren't any skunks at all...

That stinkin' old man!

CAUGHT FOOLING AROUND

Serves you right

HE HE

Ya scoundrel!

Damn!

ZENZA TRAINING

ZENZA ERA

OFFICIALLY BECAME ZENZA

Aren't you overreacting a bit?

So lame...

KIKU

HATSUTARO

CHILDHOOD

EASILY BOTHERED BY ODORS

EW

FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH RAKUGO

JIBBER JABBER

SHOUWA GENROKU

RAKUGO SHINJUU

HARUKO KUMOTA

RECAP

YOTARO WANDERING ARC

YOTARO BECAME FASCINATED WITH YURAKUTEI YAKUMO'S RAKUGO AFTER HEARING HIS PERFORMANCE IN PRISON.
UPON HIS RELEASE, YOTARO GOT MASTER YAKUMO TO TAKE HIM IN AS AN APPRENTICE, AND HE BECAME A ZENZA.
YOTARO GREW MORE AND MORE INTERESTED IN RAKUGO.
AROUND THIS TIME, YOTARO FOUND HIMSELF OBSESSED WITH THE BRILLIANT RAKUGO LEFT BEHIND BY THE LONG DECEASED SUKEROKU.

DURING HIS MASTER'S SOLO PERFORMANCE, YOTARO MADE AN UNPARDONABLE MISTAKE.
MASTER YAKUMO THREATENED TO KICK HIM OUT, BUT, FACED WITH YOTARO'S CONTINUOUS PLEADING, HE PUT FORWARD THREE PROMISES TO YOTARO FOR HIM TO KEEP. THEN, HE STARTED TO TELL YOTARO THE STORY ABOUT A PROMISE HE'D MADE WITH SUKEROKU.

YAKUMO AND SUKEROKU ARC

TAKEN IN BY THE SEVENTH GENERATION YURAKUTEI, KIKUHIKO BURST OUT LAUGHING AFTER HEARING HATSUTARO, A FILTHY-LOOKING BOY WHO FORCED HIS WAY IN, PERFORM HIS MESSY RAKUGO.
THE TWO BOYS BECAME YURAKUTEI'S APPRENTICES THAT DAY. FROM THEN ON, THEY ATE AT THE SAME TABLE AND SLEPT IN THE SAME ROOM, AS THEY GRADUALLY WALKED THE PATH TO BECOMING RAKUGOKA.

THE TWO YOUNG MEN HOPED TO WORK HARD TO BECOME FUTATSUME, BUT THE SHADOW OF WAR CAME DOWN ON THE RAKUGO INDUSTRY AND TRAMPLED THEIR WISHES.
ONE AFTER ANOTHER, APPRENTICES LEFT MASTER YURAKUTEI'S TUTELAGE DUE TO CONSCRIPTION.
ACCOMPANIED BY HATSUTARO, MASTER YURAKUTEI LEFT ON A JOURNEY TO MANCHURIA.
KIKUHIKO, THE MASTER'S WIFE, AND MATSUDA-SAN EVACUATED TO THE COUNTRYSIDE. THEN THE WAR CAME TO AN END.

CHARACTERS

YAKUMO AND SUKEROKU ARC

KIKUHIKO

EIGHTH GENERATION YURAKUTEI YAKUMO'S STAGE NAME WHEN HE WAS A FUTATSUME. HE IS ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTY IMPROVING HIS TECHNIQUE.

KONATSU

SUKEROKU'S DAUGHTER. SHE WAS ADOPTED BY YAKUMO.

YURAKUTEI SUKEROKU

HAILED AS A RARE GENIUS. HE WAS A LEGENDARY RAKUGOKA WHO PASSED AWAY.

MATSUDA-SAN

DOMESTIC HELPER AND DRIVER FOR THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT MASTER.

YOTARO WANDERING ARC

YURAKUTEI YAKUMO (EIGHTH GENERATION)

HIS NAME IS KNOWN FAR AND WIDE. HE IS SHOUWA'S LAST REMAINING FAMED RAKUGOKA.

YOTARO (KYOJI)

BECAME MASTER YAKUMO'S APPRENTICE. HE USED TO BE A GANGSTER.

YAKUMO AND SUKEROKU ARC CONT.

SAYING FAREWELL TO THAT DARK ERA, HATSUTARO ANNOUNCED WITH HIGH SPIRITS "IT'S RAKUGO'S TIME FROM NOW ON!". HIS TRIP TO MANCHURIA HAD SHARPENED HIS SKILLS EVEN FURTHER, AND TO THE AMAZEMENT OF MANY, HE BECAME A HIGHLY-ANTICIPATED FUTATSUME. ON THE OTHER HAND, KIKUHIKO STRUGGLED TO FIND HIS OWN PERSONAL PERFORMANCE STYLE. AT THAT MOMENT, MIYOKICHI, A GEISHA THAT THE MASTER BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH IN MANCHURIA, SUDDENLY MADE HER APPEARANCE!

MIYOKICHI

KONATSU'S MOTHER.
WORKING AS A GEISHA.

YURAKUTEI YAKUMO (SEVENTH GENERATION)

MASTER OF KIKUHIKO AND SUKEROKU.

SUKEROKU

CHANGED HIS INITIAL STAGE NAME "HATSUTARO" TO "SUKEROKU". GRADUALLY EMERGING INTO THE SPOTLIGHT DURING THE FUTATSUME ERA. HE IS A POPULAR CHARACTER IN THE THEATRE.

SHOUWA GENROKU RAKUGO SHINJUU

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YAKUMO AND SUKEROKU ARC

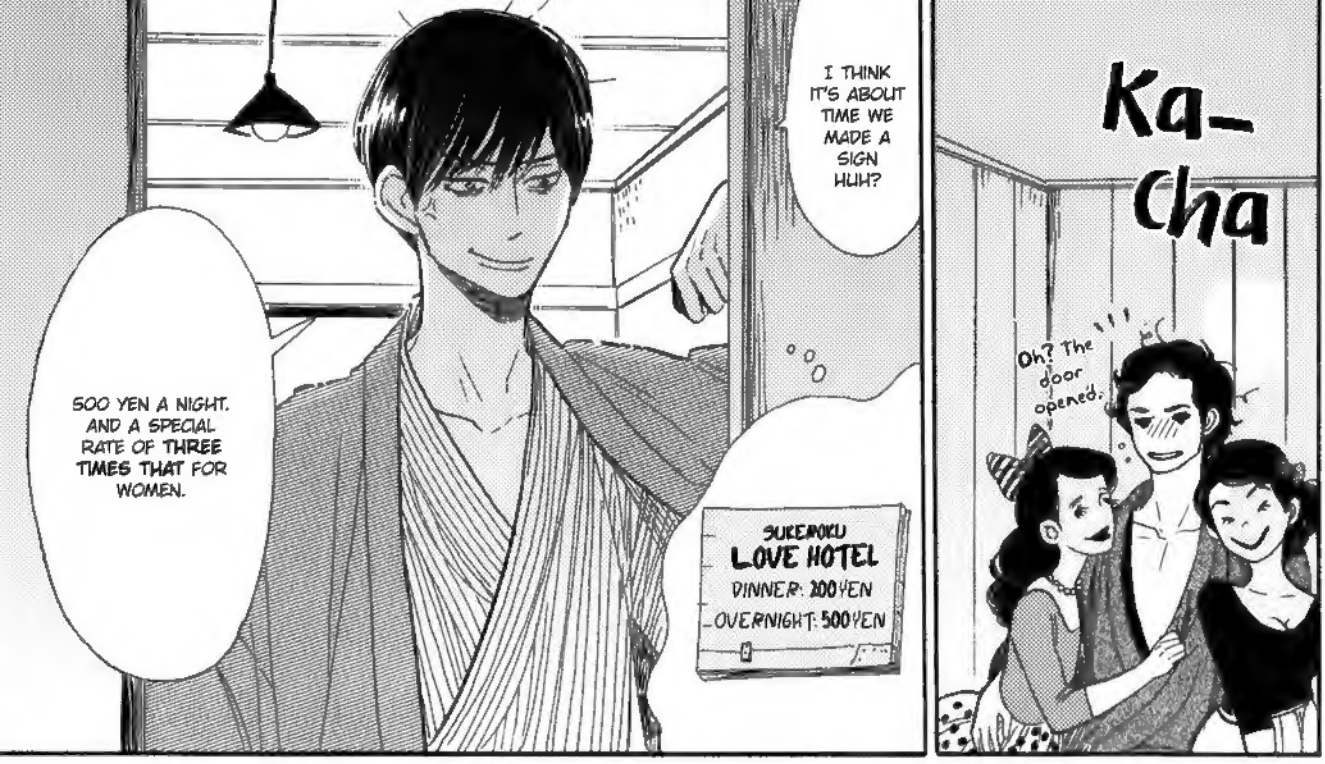
SHOUWA GENROKU

RAKUGO SHINJUU

Yakumo and Sukeroku Arc: Chapter Three

Ha Ha Ha
Ha Ha Ha
Ha
Ah~
I'M...
BACK !!
BANG!
Wah!
What're you doing!? You scared me to death!
DONK DONK

C'mon! Open the door!
BANG BANG
Let's enjoy ourselves together!
BANG BANG BANG
I'VE BROUGHT SOME GIRLS WHO'D LIKE TO MEET YOU...
What? He can't stay the night? What a pain...
I'D LIKE TO PRACTICE FOR THE "SHIKA-SHIBAI".
IF YOU HAVE COMPANY, CAN YOU GO SOMEWHERE ELSE?


I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME WE MADE A SIGN HUH?
SUKEBOKU
LOVE HOTEL
DINNER: 200 YEN
OVERNIGHT: 500 YEN
500 YEN A NIGHT. AND A SPECIAL RATE OF THREE TIMES THAT FOR WOMEN.
Ka-
Cha
Oh? The door opened.

Boo!
Boo!
Boo!
Boo!
And what about our payment?!
What's this? This isn't what you told us.

STINGY...
AH?
NOTHING.

I DON'T LIKE THOSE KINDS OF WOMEN.
DON'T BRING THEM OVER ANYMORE.

I HEARD YOU. YOU SAID SOMETHING JUST NOW DIDN'T YOU?!
TWITCH TWITCH
OH I'M SO SORRY, I JUST SAID YOU WERE STINGY...
YOU'RE HOPELESS.

I GATHERED A LOT OF PEOPLE TODAY AND SOLD A WHOLE BUNCH OF TICKETS FOR THE PLAY.
THERE'RE SOME WEALTHY AND POWERFUL PEOPLE AMONG MY PATRONS.
IT'S FIIIINE—
PLEASE. HAVE A BIT OF SELF-CONTROL.
EVEN IF IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF GAINING ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE, PLAYING AROUND LIKE THIS EVERYDAY IS TOO MUCH.
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE MY POPULARITY
THEY'VE HEARD OF ME EVEN IN YOSHIWARA.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY A SHOW PUT TOGETHER BY A BUNCH OF FUTATSUME?

THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN FOOLING AROUND,
DON'T COME RUNNING TO ME IF YOU RUN INTO PROBLEMS.
THOSE AMERICANS HAVE A LOT TO SAY ABOUT YOSHIWARA.
IF WE DON'T GO SOON, WE MIGHT NOT GET THE CHANCE.
HOW CAN OUR RAKUGO EVER HOPE TO SOUND APPEALING IF WE'VE NEVER EVEN VISITED THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT?
HEY, DIDN'T WE SAY WE'D GO THERE TOGETH-ER?

Unlike me
I SAY...
DON'T GO THROWING A TANTRUM JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT POPULAR.
Ahh!
YOU'RE MORE CONCERNED WITH QUALITY THAN QUANTITY, HUH?
WHAT ABOUT MIYOKICHI-SAN?
SHE'S A FINE WOMAN.
Heh...
LET HER HAVE A TASTE OF YOU NEXT TIME.
STOP THAT.
DO YOU ALWAYS THINK ABOUT THOSE SORTS OF THINGS WHEN IT COMES TO WOMEN?!
So-called men
Beloved by all once they step out the door

And returning home without falling in love
SUKEROKU!
Wha?
WHY'RE YOU SUDDENLY ADDRESSING ME BY THAT NAME...
PERFORM 'OSOME-SAN'.
DIDN'T YOU PERFORM IT A WHILE AGO?
?
THE SCENE WHERE OSOME-SAN HAS CHOSEN KINZO-SAN TO BE HER PARTNER IN HER LOVERS' SUICIDE...
...AND USES FLATTERY TO TRICK HIM INTO COMMITTING SUICIDE WITH HER.
PERFORM IT FOR ME.
...YOU WANNA HEAR IT?
YOU LIKE MY RAKU-GO THAT MUCH?
JUST DO IT.
FINE, I'LL DO IT...
Osome eloquently wrote out her feelings of admiration on the tenbeni paper* and got ready to send it to Kinzo.

*TN: TENBENI ...LETTERS WRITTEN BY PROSTITUTES TO THEIR CUSTOMERS. NAME ORIGINATES FROM THE TOP OF THE LETTER PAPER BEING DYED RED.

I have some matters to discuss with you.
Ah~ Kin-san, you're finally here
I'm so happy— only Kin-san would say that to me!
Osome definitely has feelings for me
I'm so pleased!
got ready and rushed to Shina gawa
the imme diately.

OW OW OW! IT HURTS, IT HURTS!
PINCH
JUST LOOK AT YOU.
And then,
Osome tightly pinched his cheeks..
and Kinzo felt like he was ascending to the heavens.

DON'T YOU THINK THOSE KINDS OF WOMEN ARE CUTE?
WHAT THE HECK?
Sigh...
you twad!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN CONSORTING WITH INDECENT WOMEN THAT YOU'VE EXPOSED YOUR STUPIDITY IN ITS ENTIRETY.
Let go!
It hurts like hell!

NO, IT'S NOT BEAUTIFUL AT ALL.
SUKEROKU, YOUR RAKUGO COULD REACH EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS.

IF I HAD TO DO IT YOUR WAY,
I'D PROBABLY END UP HATING RAKUGO.
YOU'RE STILL AS STUBBORN AS EVER.

THE HEAVENS ARE SO UNFAIR.
IF WE DON'T PLAY THE FOOL, HOW WILL WE SURVIVE?
BUT THAT'S WHAT RAKUGO IS, RIGHT?
IT'S A TOUGH BUSI-NESS,

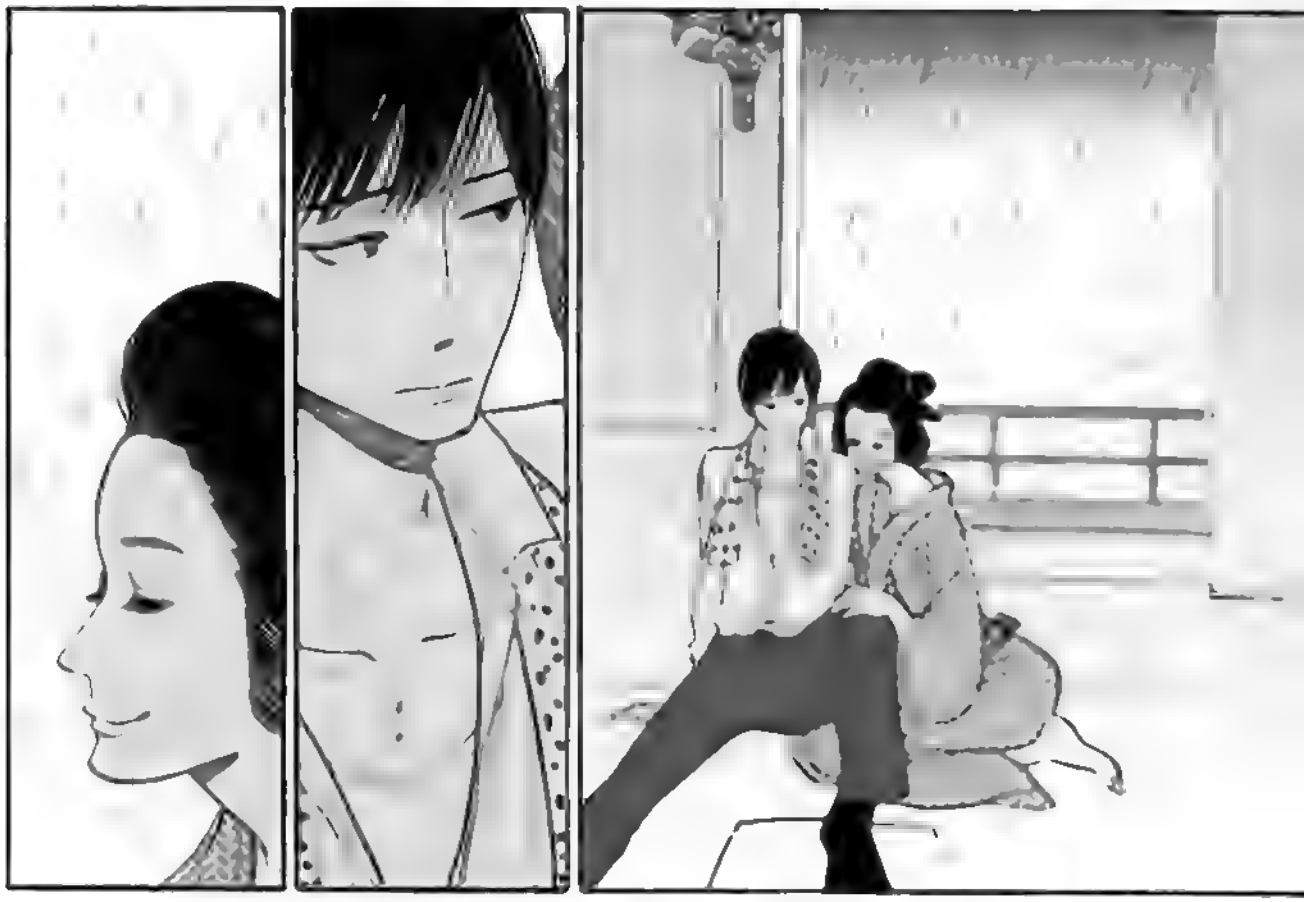
YOU'VE GAINED ALL THE BENEFITS. HOW SLY OF YOU.
EVEN THOUGH YOU SPEND ALL DAY FOOLING AROUND, YOU'VE STILL GOT JOBS LINED UP
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
YOU SEEM ESPECIALLY AGITATED TODAY
SO IF YOU WANT TO WORK OFF YOUR ANGER, FEEL FREE TO THROW AS MANY COMPLAINTS AT ME AS YOU WANT
USUALLY IT'S YOU TAKING CARE OF ME.
Not the char-coal!
WAH!
Charcoal!
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
HOT!

KIKU-SAAAN!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
I WAS JUST RUNNING SOME ERRANDS NEARBY.
?
I HAVE TO GO TO SARUWAKA STREET TO BORROW SOME PROPS FOR A PLAY.
AH! SO THAT MEANS YOU WON'T BE GOING TO THE THEATRE TODAY.
I WAS JUST THINKING OF HEADING OVER SINCE I HAVE SOME FREE TIME. WHAT LUCK!
Kyaa—
SPLASH

?
I NEED TO PRACTICE FOR TOMORROW.
...WHAT A PAIN,
I'M GOING TO BE IN A PLAY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS SUDDEN DOWN-POUR.
I JUST HAD MY HAIR STYLED TOO.
MY PLACE IS NEARBY.
WALK ME HOME, WILL YOU?
Ho Ho!
TONIGHT, I'VE BEEN HIRED TO GO TO FUKA-GAWA!
WONDER-FUL, ISN'T IT?

EITHER WAY, I DON'T INTEND ON STEPPING OUT FROM UNDER THIS UMBRELLA
TELL ME MORE ABOUT IT.
AND YOU'LL BE ACTING IN IT? THAT'S GREAT!
A PLAY?
YOU'RE GETTING BETTER AND BETTER AT THIS.
Lipstick marks



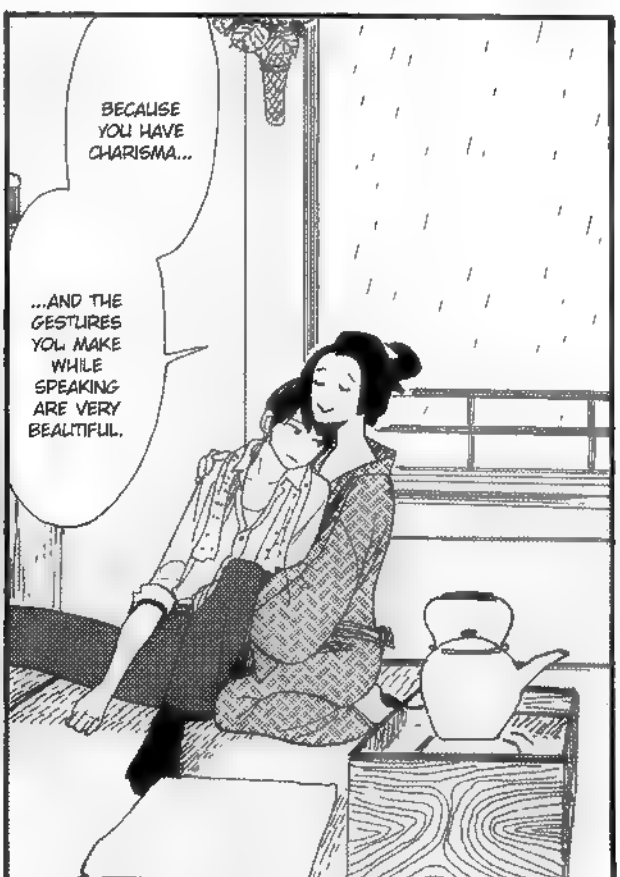
YOU SEEM DOWN.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

WHY? I REALLY LIKE...
...YOUR RAKUGO.

IT MIGHT BE THAT...
...RAKU-GO...
...JUST ISN'T A GOOD FIT FOR ME.

YET THAT IS THE ONE THING I FATALLY LACK.
Sigh...

BUT IS THAT NECESSARY FOR PERFORMING RAKUGO?
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO BE LIKE-ABLE.

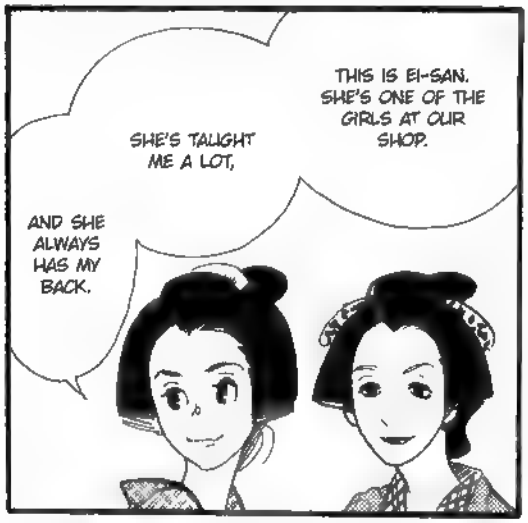

BECAUSE YOU HAVE CHARISMA...
...AND THE GESTURES YOU MAKE WHILE SPEAKING ARE VERY BEAUTIFUL.

BUT A CERTAIN IDIOT JUST REFUSED TO LISTEN...
I ALREADY SAID THAT THIS ROLE IS TOO MUCH FOR ME,
NO WAY! YOU? WEARING A FURISODE*?!
BENTEN KOZO.
WHAT PART ARE YOU PLAYING TOMORROW?
THAT'S RIGHT.
OH, YOU MEANIE...

*TN: FURISODE - THE MOST FORMAL STYLE OF KIMONO WORN BY YOUNG UNMARRIED WOMEN.

BORROWING COSTUMES AND BACKDROPS WAS ALREADY DIFFICULT ENOUGH.
THIS IS JUST A SCRUBBY PLAY PUT ON BY A BUNCH OF YOUNG PEOPLE.
DO YOU NEED TO HIRE A MAKEUP ARTIST?

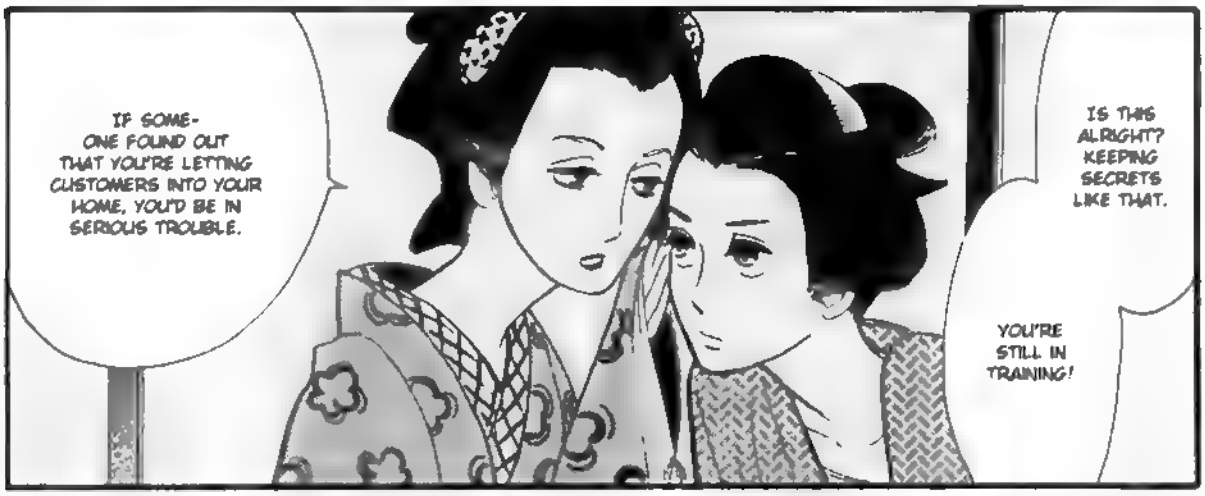
SHOULDN'T HAVE MENTIONED IT...
I've got lots of makeup tools!
Like white foundation and lipstick.
I can lend these to you...
I CAN HELP WITH THE MAKEUP!
THERE'S NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ACTORS AND GEISHA.
C'mon!
C'mon! Sounds good, right?
MIYO-CHAN,
EH?
YOU HAVE A CUSTOMER...?


THIS IS EI-SAN. SHE'S ONE OF THE GIRLS AT OUR SHOP.
SHE'S TAUGHT ME A LOT,
AND SHE ALWAYS HAS MY BACK.

HI.

YOU'RE NOT CHANGED YET?!
YOU WERE LATE, SO THEY CAME TO PICK YOU UP.
Sorry!
THE DRIVER'S ALREADY WAITING OUTSIDE.

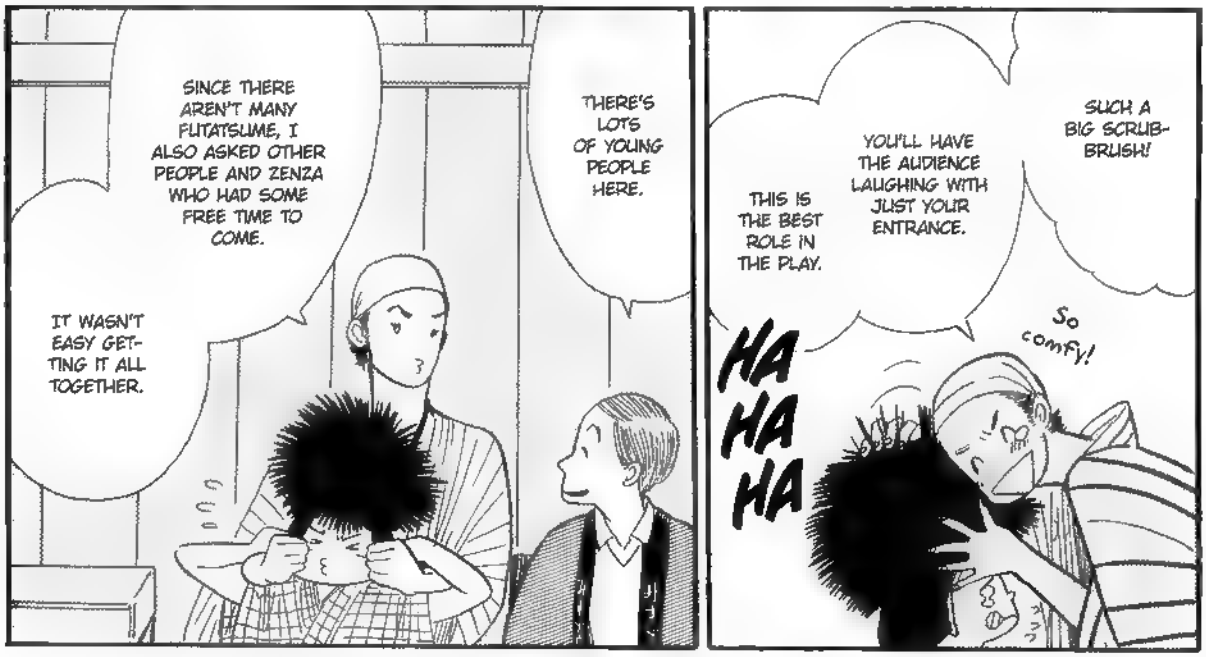
Come over here for a moment.
KEEP IT A SECRET FROM THE SEVENTH GENERATION AND THE MADAME, OK?
THAT'S RIGHT HE'S THE SEVENTH GENERATION'S APPRENTICE
AREN'T YOU THE SEVENTH GENERATION'S
AH!

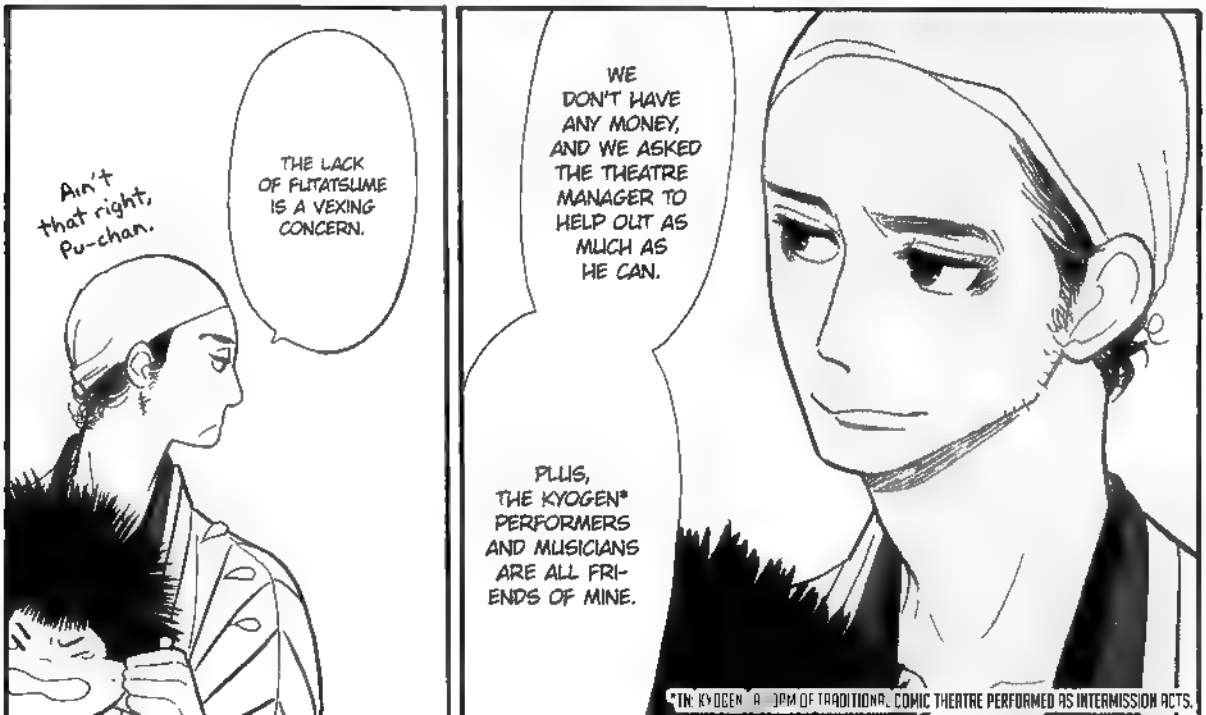

IF SOMEONE FOUND OUT THAT YOU'RE LETTING CUSTOMERS INTO YOUR HOME, YOU'D BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.
IS THIS ALRIGHT? KEEPING SECRETS LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE STILL IN TRAINING!

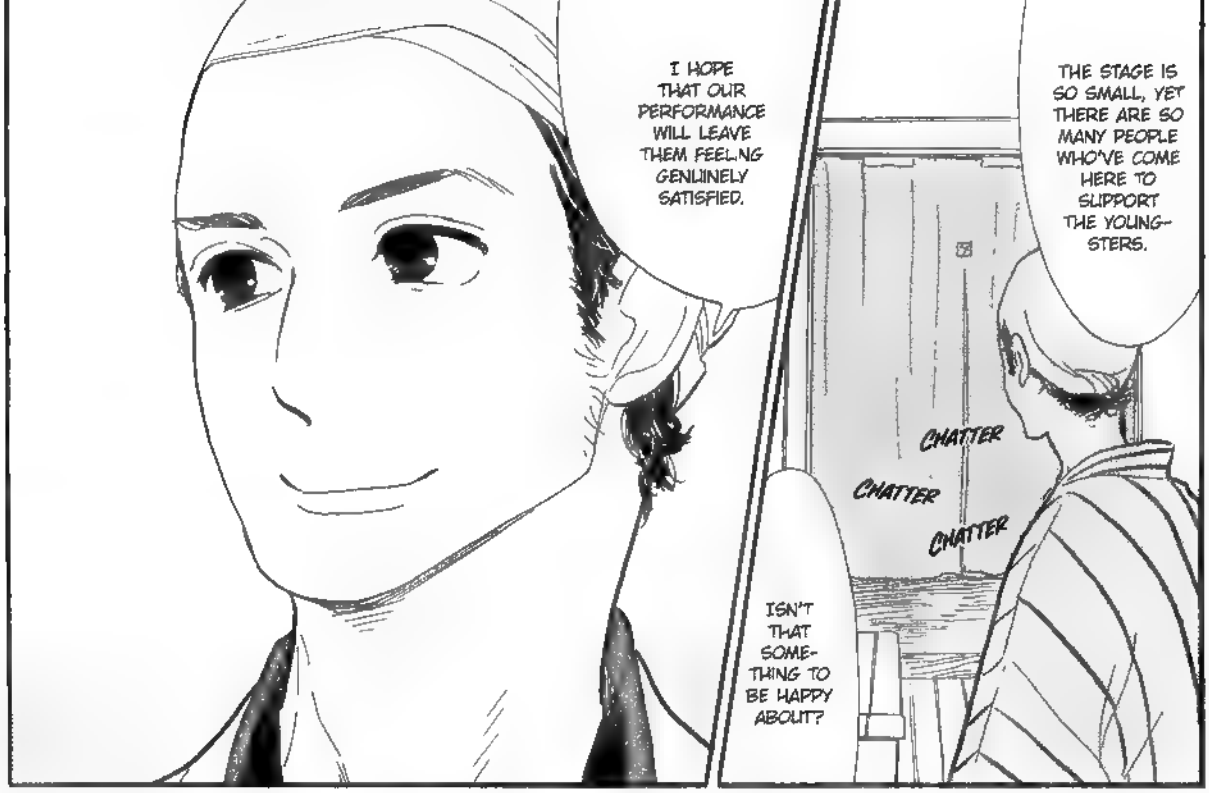
CHATTER
CHATTER
IT'S FINE, KIKU-SAN...
...ISN'T A CUSTOMER.

大衆映劇
美鈴座
映画はこちらで
浅草座
電光石火の珍
梅竹 2本立て
東京名物 ロック座
総天然色
東洋ナイトクラブ
120
只今割引
HOW'S THE CROWD?
IT'S JAM-PACKED!
BECAUSE OF ALL THE FLYERS WE GAVE OUT
Ah! How exciting! ♪
WOW!
WAH!
WOW!
Ah! Ah!
THE MASTER ISN'T HOME TODAY ANYWAY.
NO, IT'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL!
SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE, MATSUDA-SAN.
ALRIGHT, IF THE LEADING MAN IS SEEN, THERE'LL BE AN UPROAR.
WE'RE REALLY SHORT ON HELP.

WHY DO I HAVE TO PLAY THIS SORT OF ROLE?
EVERYONE WHO SAW ME JUST NOW WOULDN'T STOP LAUGHING.
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
YOU BIG ROUND HAIRBALL!
YOU'RE SO MEAN BRO!
WHAT'S WITH THAT HAIRSTYLE, PUTA!

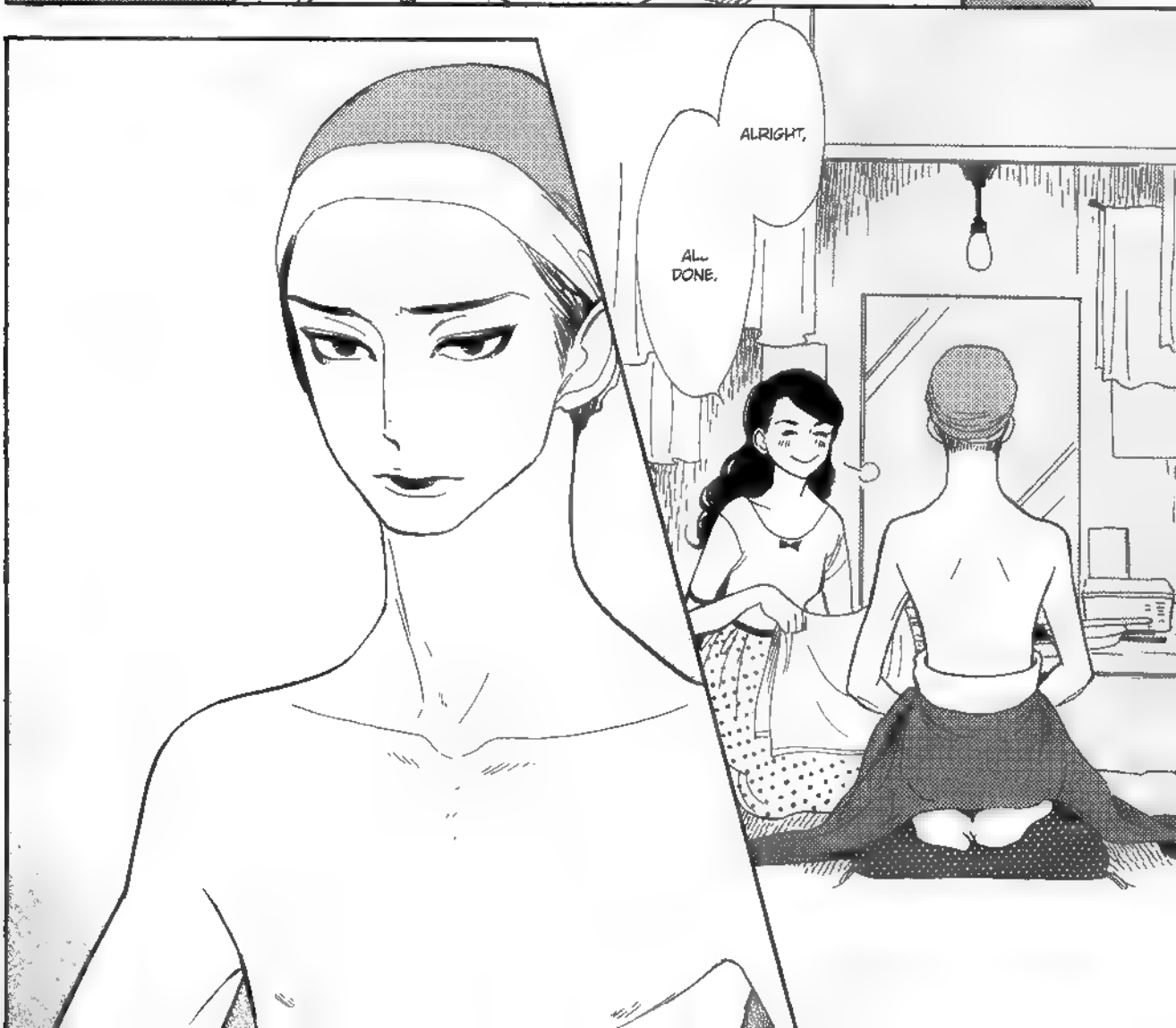

SINCE THERE AREN'T MANY FUTATSUME, I ALSO ASKED OTHER PEOPLE AND ZENZA WHO HAD SOME FREE TIME TO COME.
IT WASN'T EASY GETTING IT ALL TOGETHER.
THERE'S LOTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE HERE.
THIS IS THE BEST ROLE IN THE PLAY.
YOU'LL HAVE THE AUDIENCE LAUGHING WITH JUST YOUR ENTRANCE.
SUCH A BIG SCRUB-BRUSH!
HA HA HA
So comfy!


Ain't that right, Pu-chan.
THE LACK OF FUTATSUME IS A VEXING CONCERN.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY, AND WE ASKED THE THEATRE MANAGER TO HELP OUT AS MUCH AS HE CAN.
PLUS, THE KYOGEN* PERFORMERS AND MUSICIANS ARE ALL FRIENDS OF MINE.
*TN: KYOGEN IS A FORM OF TRADITIONAL COMIC THEATRE PERFORMED AS INTERMISSION ACTS.

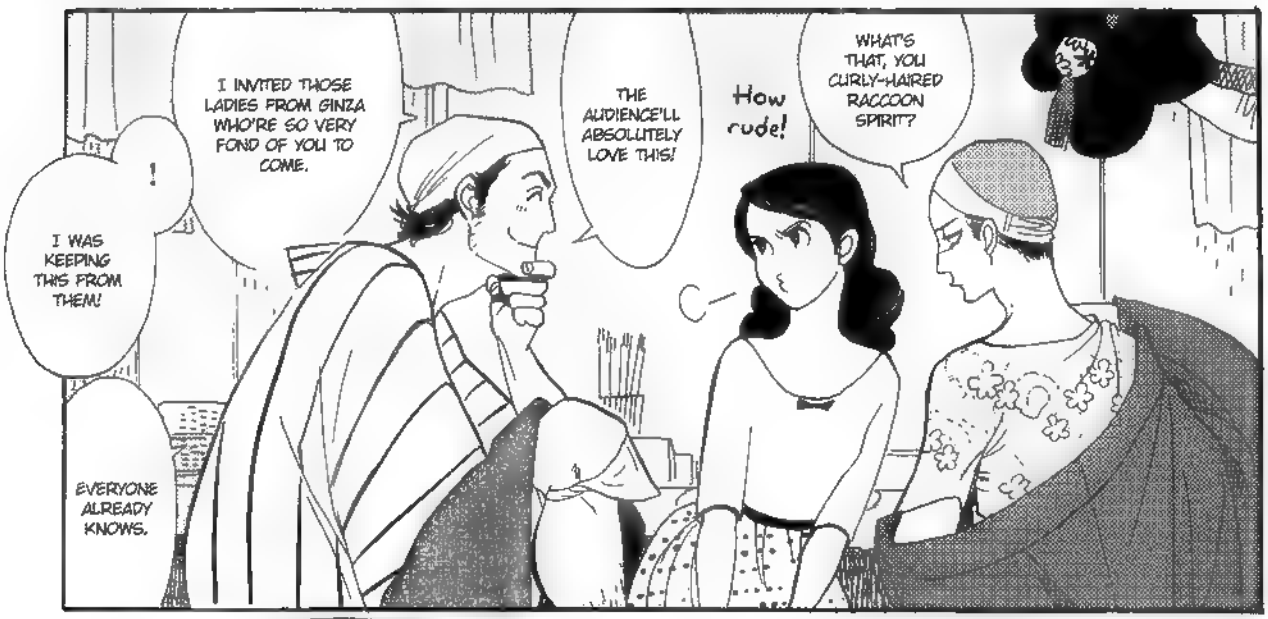

I HOPE THAT OUR PERFORMANCE WILL LEAVE THEM FEELING GENUINELY SATISFIED.
THE STAGE IS SO SMALL, YET THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE WHO'VE COME HERE TO SUPPORT THE YOUNGSTERS.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
ISN'T THAT SOMETHING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT?

*TN: MISUZUZA = NAME OF THE THEATRE

BENTEN IS ABOUT TO TRANSFORM INTO...
...AN ELEGANT YOUNG LADY.
PRETTY...
PRETTY...


ALRIGHT, ALL DONE.

WHA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA
A FOX DEMON!
WOW
KIKU-SAN LOOKS SO LOVELY...

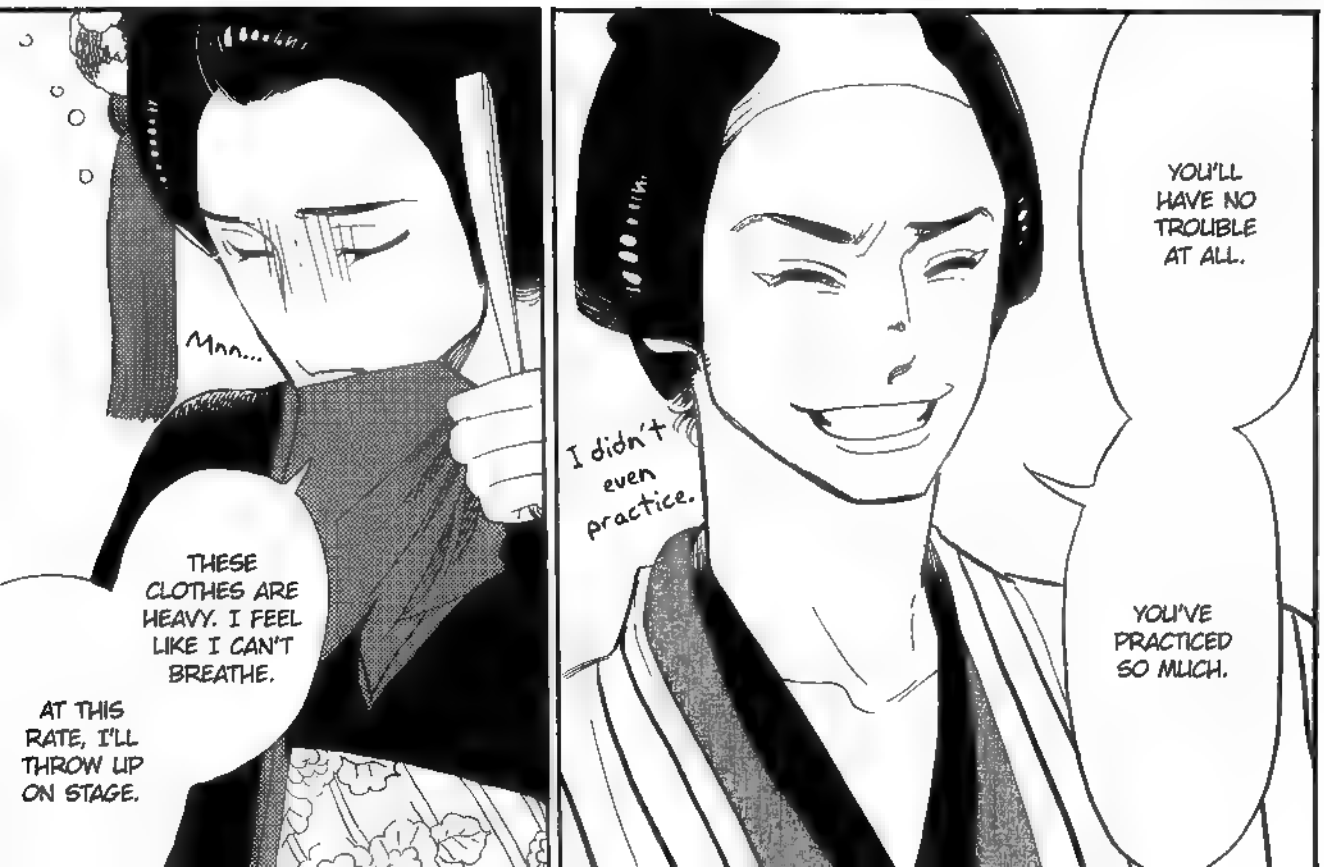

I INVITED THOSE LADIES FROM GINZA WHO'RE SO VERY FOND OF YOU TO COME.
!
I WAS KEEPING THIS FROM THEM!
EVERYONE ALREADY KNOWS.
THE AUDIENCE'LL ABSOLUTELY LOVE THIS!
How rude!
WHAT'S THAT, YOU CURLY-HAIRED RACCOON SPIRIT?

WHAT!
GRIN GRIN

Twang
Twang
Twang
FWEET
Twang
Twang
Twang
Ding
Dong
Dong
Dong
Dong
Dong
TODAY'S PERFORMANCE IS GOING TO BE AMAZING.
SNAP
SNAP
HEH. WELCOME, WELCOME...
OH! EXCUSE ME!
Hehehe...
OI.
TWITCH
SO NERVOUS YOU CAN'T MOVE HUH?

SHIN-SAN...
.....
THIS IS MY FIRST ACTING ROLE
I DIDN'T THINK THE CROWD WOULD BE THIS BIG.
THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

WAIT...
WAIT! WAIT!
UWAH!
I'M LEAVING.


Mnn...
THESE CLOTHES ARE HEAVY. I FEEL LIKE I CAN'T BREATHE.
AT THIS RATE, I'LL THROW UP ON STAGE.
I didn't even practice.
YOU'VE PRACTICED SO MUCH.
YOU'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE AT ALL.

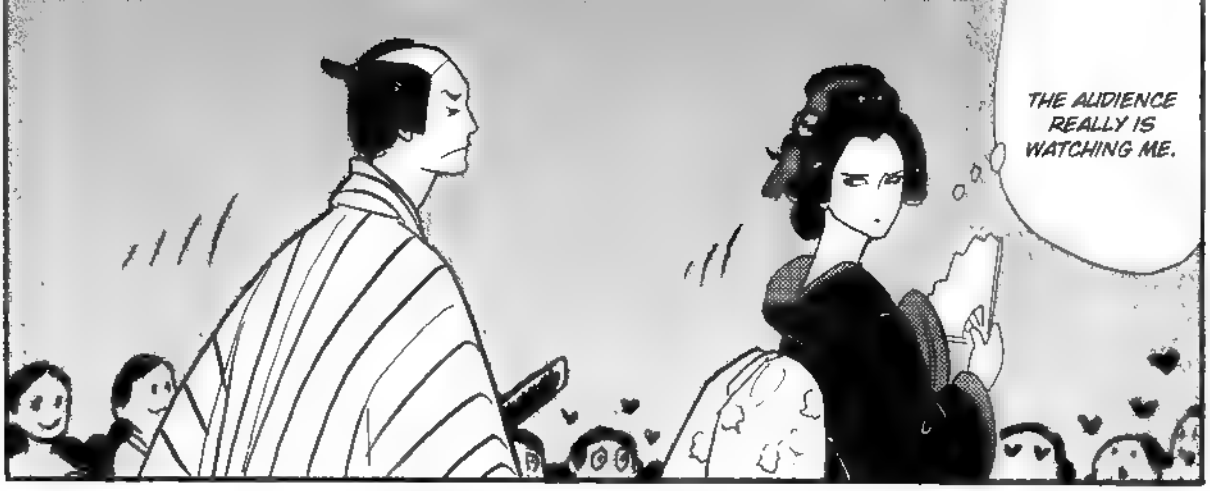
YOU'RE AN INVIGO-RATING LEAD AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN HERE.
YOU'LL BE FINE!
EVERYTHING WILL GO SMOOTHLY FOR YOU TODAY.
WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR APPEARANCE, SWEEP YOUR EYES ACROSS THE ROOM.
EVERYONE WILL PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO YOU.
HEY BRO,
PAT
IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GOT READY.
EITHER WAY, THIS IS MERELY A PLAY PUT ON BY AMATEURS,
SO THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

JUST PRETEND YOU'VE BEEN POSSESSED AND LET EVERYONE WITNESS THIS FOX-FACE OF YOURS.
THAT WAY, YOU'LL HAVE THE AUDIENCE EATING RIGHT OUT OF YOUR HAND.
SWISH

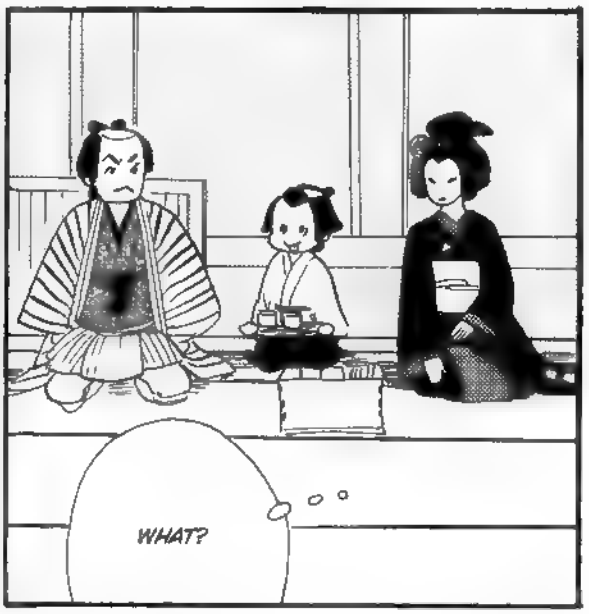
THAT COMMENT ABOUT THE FOX-FACE WAS SO UNNECES-SARY!
OHHH...
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

Sukeroku-chan!
Kiku-san!
HE HE HE
OHHH!
SUPER STAR!
HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!
FWEEEET
Twang
DONG
DONG
DONG
DONG

Oi, Yon-pachi
where in the world is Hamamatsuya textiles store?
It's just up ahead.
Do we have to say we're shopping for our wedding?
But it would sound legitimate
So you say, but I..
HEHEHEHE
still feel so embarrassed.
PEEK
YURAKUTEI
Then we'll just leave that info out if you don't want to say it. Alright missy, hurry up.


THE AUDIENCE REALLY IS WATCHING ME.

HA HA HA
HA HA HA
WHAT IS THIS FEELING?


WHAT?

WHEN-EVER I MOVE,
THE AUDI-ENCE'S GAZE
ALSO MOVES WITH ME...

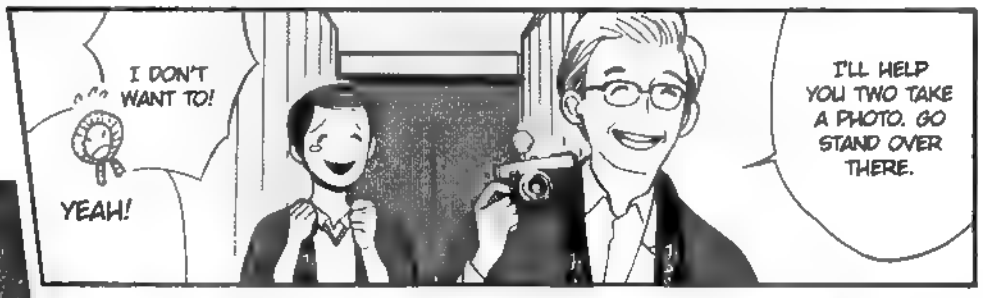
Quick!
Quick!
Quick!
Quick!
Liar, what is your response?
Oh, Big Bro,
since it's been revealed that I'm a man, there's no way I can keep pretending anymore.
I'm about to expose my fox tail!

I can't stand wearing this stifling clothing anymore!
THE ENTIRE AUDI-ENCE...
...IS WATCH-ING.
Big Bro, you should shed those clothes, too.
THEIR GAZE REACHES DEEP INTO MY BONES.
Oi, shop-keeper,
Got some tobacco to spare?

We don't know!
Oh ho!
Where did this bastard come from?
If that's the case .
...then let me tell you all...
DONG
DONG

OHHH!
AWESOME!
YURAKUTE!!
GREAT PERFORMANCE!
TWANG
WAH
WAH
WAH
Twang
WAH
Twang
Twang
WAH
KID!
Fu...
WAH
IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS! DO YOU HEAR THAT?!
THAT THUNDER-OUS AP-PLAUSE!

I'M SO HAPPY...
...TO SEE THE AUDIENCE'S EXCITEMENT AND JOY.
IT'S SO RARE TO SEE THE AUDIENCE REACT SO FIERCELY!
YOU'RE TRULY AMAZING!
IT'S SO GREAT THAT WE'RE ABLE TO BE PART OF THIS PLAY!


I DON'T WANT TO!
YEAH!
I'LL HELP YOU TWO TAKE A PHOTO. GO STAND OVER THERE.

新橋演舞場

ALRIGHT, TAKE OFF THAT HEADSCARF AND LET'S TAKE SOME GOOD PHOTOS.
I DON'T WANT TO!
I DON'T WANT A RECORD OF ME IN THIS GET-UP!
THIS ISN'T JUST SOME NOBODY REQUESTING THE PHOTO. IT'S THE THEATRE MANAGER!

EH? YOU'RE HEADING BACK ALREADY?
WHY NOT JOIN US FOR THE AFTER-PARTY?
KIKU-SAN ASKED ME TO GO ON WITHOUT HIM.
IT'S FINE. THIS KIND OF ALL-MALE GATHERING IS BORING
ON THESE DARK STREETS? AT NIGHT?!
IS KIKU-SAN STILL BUSY?
PLEASE TELL HIM THAT WE'LL CHAT NEXT TIME.
HE'S GOT ALL THAT PAINT ALL OVER HIS BODY TO GET OFF.

HOLD ON. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO WALK BY YOURSELF AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT
LET ME WALK YOU HOME.
YOU'RE UNEXPECTEDLY GENTLE.
OR I CAN WALK YOU TO THE STATION, MISS?
OH!
THAT'D BE GREAT!

VERY DIFFERENT FROM KIKU-SAN.
RIGHT?
Hehe

YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON I WANT TO HEAR CALLING ME UNRELIABLE.
CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LET A WOMAN WALK HOME BY HERSELF. WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
OI!
YOU UNRELIABLE RUNT!

WHO'S THE BIG BROTHER HERE? I WAS THE ONE WHO BECAME MASTER'S APPRENTICE FIRST.
YOU!
LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF YOUR BIG BROTHER!
I DON'T NEED YOU MEDDLING.
WHAT COULD I DO? THE MANAGER HAS TAKEN GOOD CARE OF US.
I WAS THE ONE WHO STEPPED OVER THE THRESHOLD FIRST!
JUST MAKE IT UP TO HER LATER, OKAY?

YOU'RE VERY DRUNK.
OH! NO WAY, NO WAY.
TODAY'S BEEN SUCH A GOOD DAY.
LET'S NOT ARGUE.

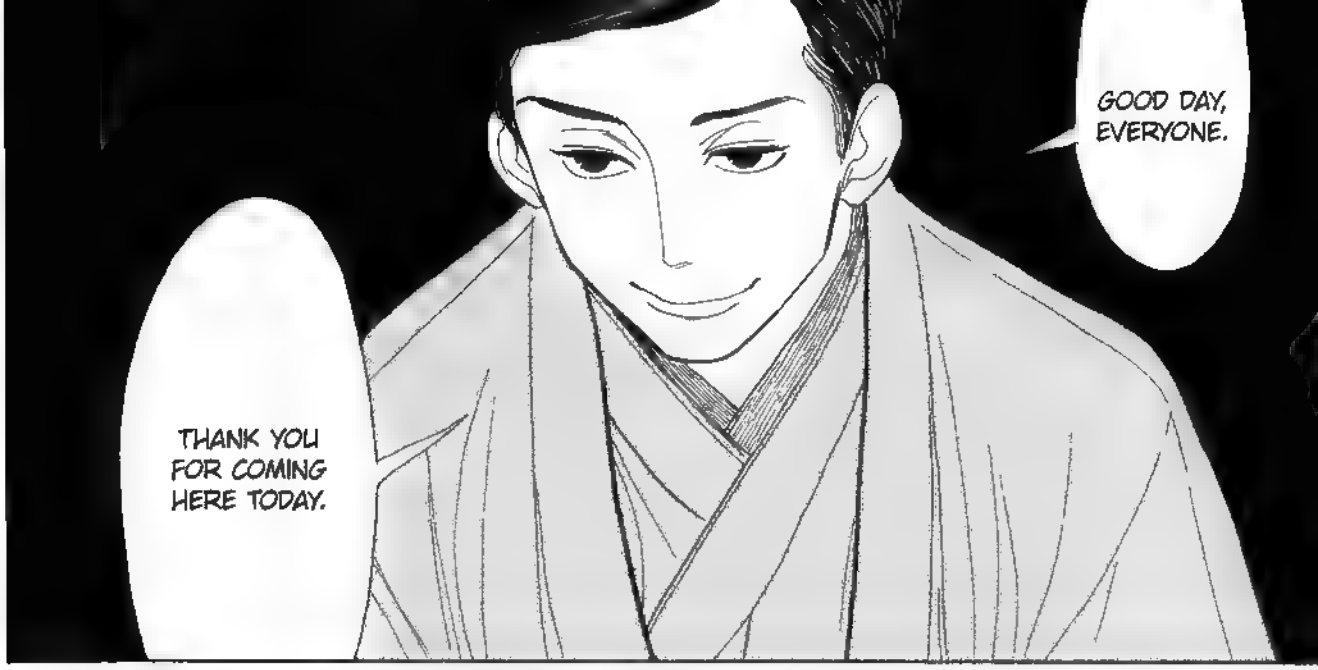
JUST HEAR ME OUT.
REMINISCING ABOUT THE PAST AGAIN? I'M ALREADY SICK OF IT.
ME, WHEN I WAS IN MANCHURIA, THERE WERE A FEW TIMES WHEN I WAS THIS CLOSE TO CROSSING TO THE OTHER SIDE, BUT I SURVIVED, RIGHT?
THEIR EXPRES-SIONS WERE SIMILAR TO THE ONES WE SAW TODAY, RIGHT?
THERE WERE A FEW CLOSE CALLS, BUT EVERY TIME I PERFORMED RAKUGO FOR THE SOLDIERS, THEY'D FEEL HAPPY FROM THE BOTTOM OF THEIR HEARTS.
THOSE EXPRES-SIONS ARE MY ABSOLUTE FAVOURITE.
THERE WERE NO RADIOS ON THE BATTLEFRONT AND EVERYONE WAS CRAVING ENTERTAINMENT, SO THEY WEL-COMED ME WITH OPEN ARMS.

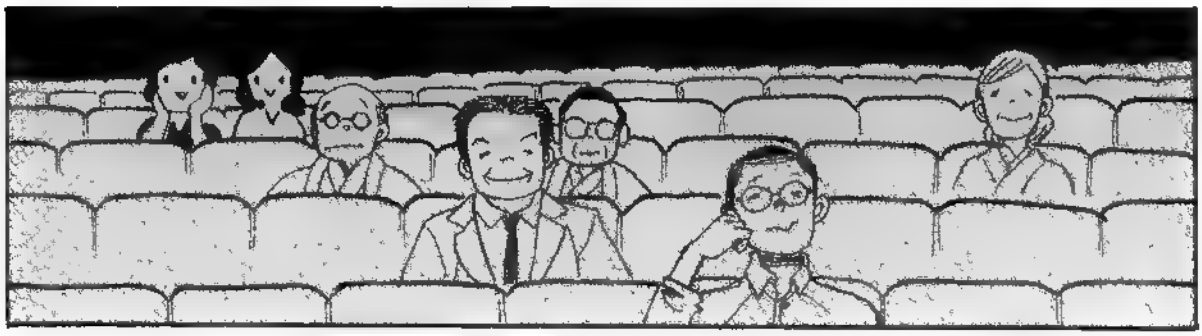
SO I'VE MADE UP MY MIND,
I WILL PERFORM RAKUGO FOR THE PEOPLE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
FOR WHAT REASON DO YOU PERFORM?

Ah!
He fell asleep.
Snore...
.....

FOR WHAT REASON?
SNAP
SNAP
Monthly Futat-sume Seminar

DON
DON
DON
CREAK
Twang
Twang
Do your best.
Please let me perform before you
Good morn-ing
FOR WHOM DO I PER-FORM MY RAKUGO?

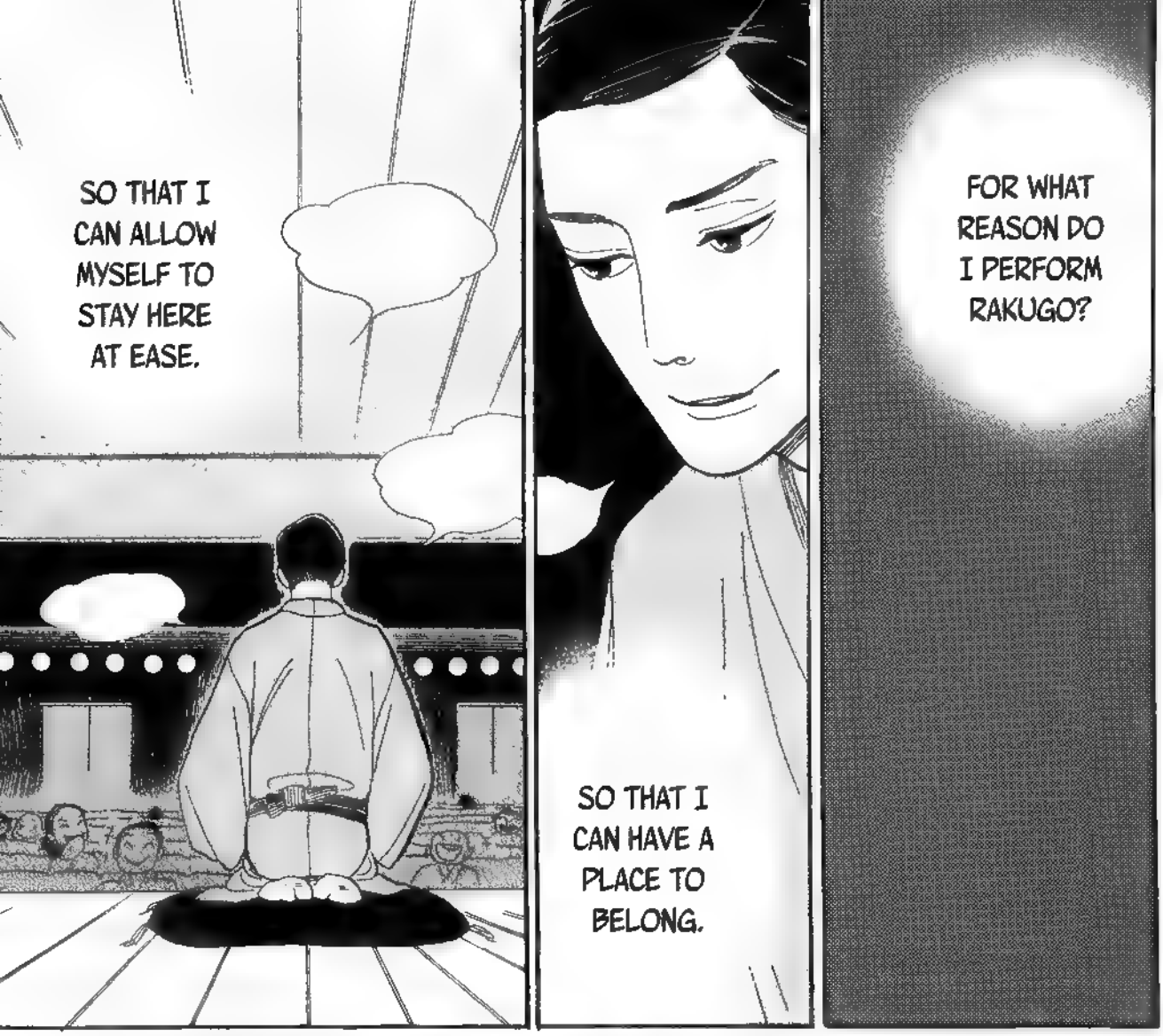

GOOD DAY, EVERYONE.
THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE TODAY.

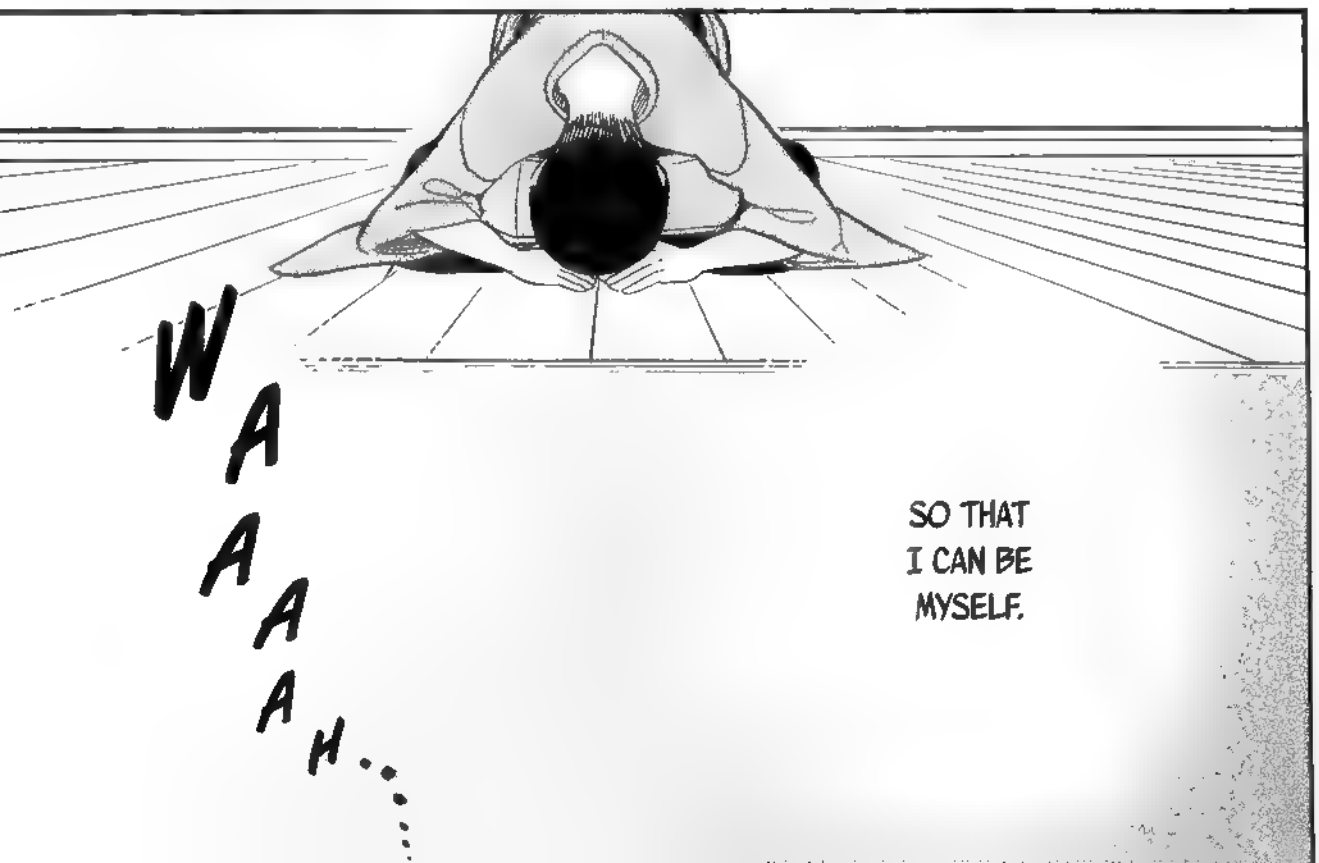


In Shinjuku in Shina-gawa, there was a rest-aurant called Shiroki-ya.
At Shiroki-ya, there resided a famous courtesan who went by the name of Osome
This woman, Osome, could not hold back the tide of aging.
There was not one patron who had offered to pay for the new season's wardrobe
Rather than suffering ongoing humiliation, she decided to commit a lovers' suicide.

Hmm,
what-ever shall I do?
I want to find a partner for a lovers' suicide,
yet I'd feel horribly guilty no matter who I choose
Oh!
I know, I know!
Kinzo-san, the bachelor from that bookstore!
IT'S DIFFER-ENT...
IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE REACTIONS I USUALLY RECEIVE!
He he
He he
He he
He he
He he
He he
.....
I'm so pleased! Osome-san has feelings for me...

Got it! You can ask me anything.
I have something to discuss with you tonight
I'm so glad...
Ah- Kin-san, you've come to see me.
Really?
Ah. I'm so glad.
Kin-san, you're the only one who'd promise me that.


SO THAT I CAN ALLOW MYSELF TO STAY HERE AT EASE.
SO THAT I CAN HAVE A PLACE TO BELONG.
FOR WHAT REASON DO I PERFORM RAKUGO?


WAAAAH...
SO THAT I CAN BE MYSELF.

KIKU-SAN,
WHAT'S GOING ON? YOUR PERFORMANCE TODAY WAS ESPECIALLY GREAT!
DID SOME-THING GOOD HAPPEN TO YOU?

止席
IT'S A SECRET.

Showa
Genroku
Rakugo Shinjuu
Haruko Kumota

HelveticaScans

ヘルベチカ漫画

Shouwa Genroku Rakugo Shinjuu

Chapter 9

Haruko Kumota

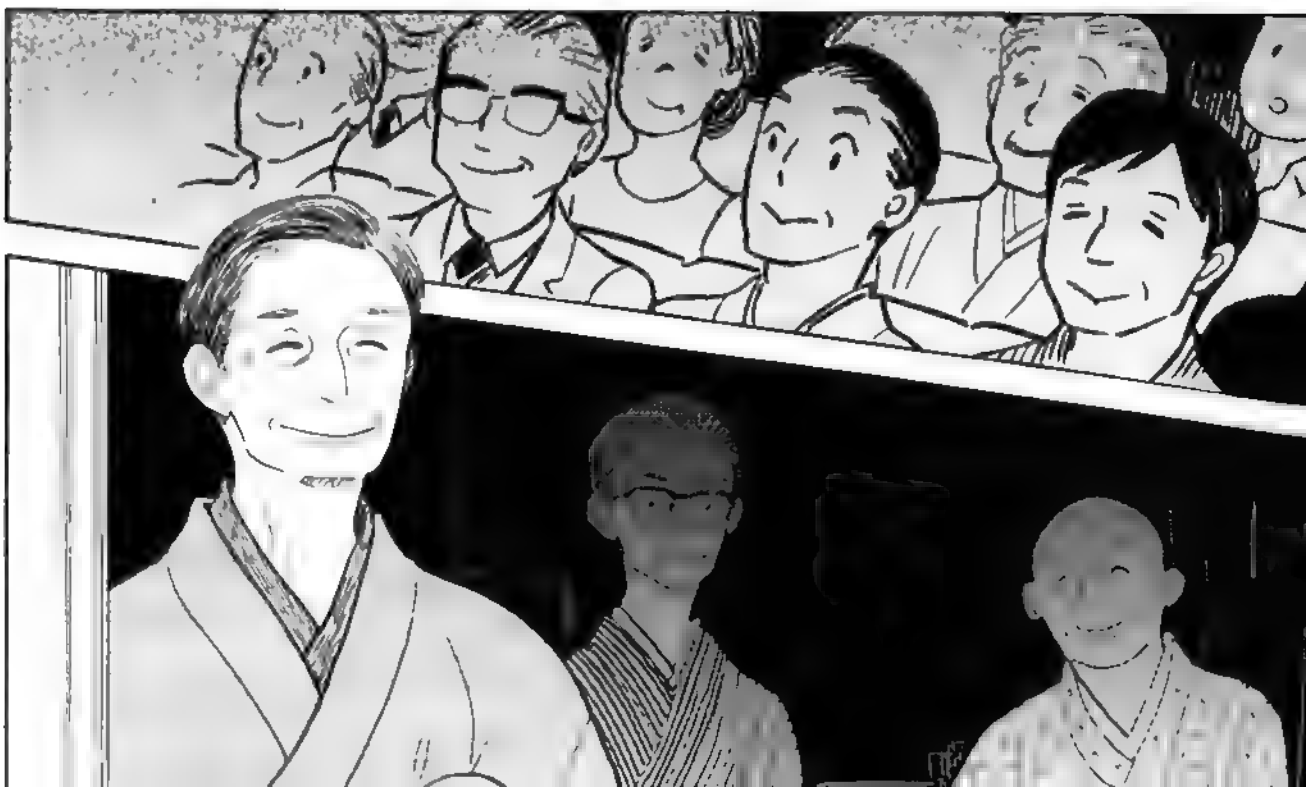
ONLINE	Translating
HIROFUJI	Editing
ENE	Typesetting
HAKOBU, JON RYUGA, WIDE	Proofreading
MILNIVEK, ROXY	Quality Check
ECCHAN	

HELVETICA IS
IN DIRE NEED OF
PROOFREADERS!
CLICK THE JOIN US BUTTON
ON OUR SITE TO APPLY!
PRs ARE NEEDED FOR KINGS' VIKING AND GRAND BLUE.

SHOUWA GENROKU

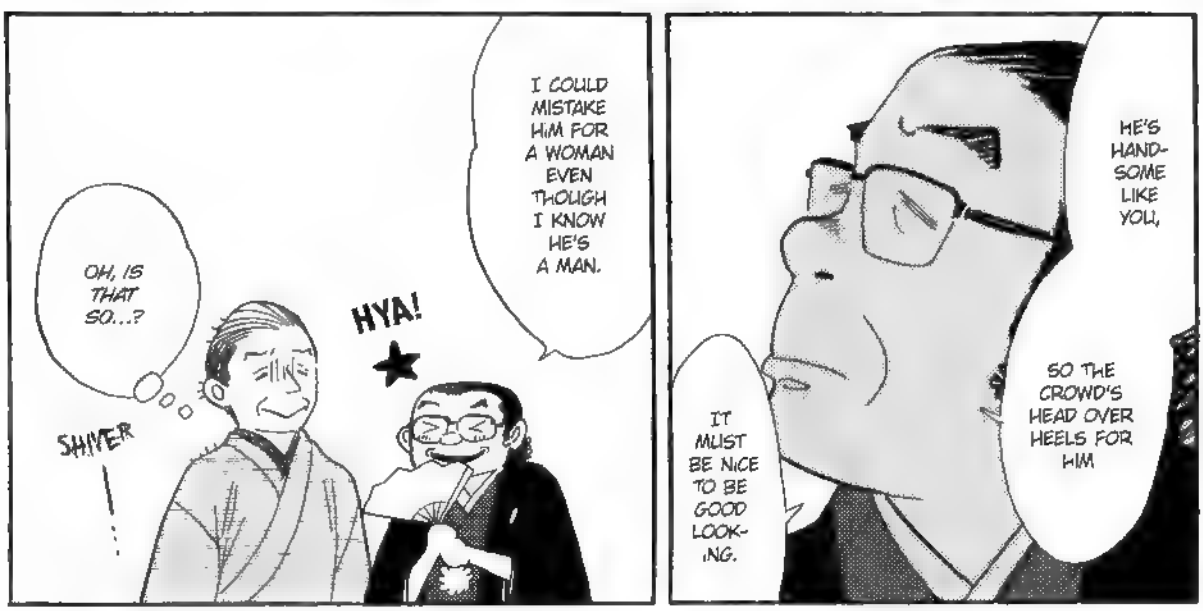
RAKUGO SHINJUU

Takumo and Sukeroku Arc Chapter Four



THANKS FOR COMING ALL THE WAY HERE TO KANSAI.
THE FAMILY EVENT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.
MUCH APPRECIATED.
MASTER BANSAI!
YAKUMO-CHAAAN!
I'M HEERE!

IT'S ALL THANKS TO THE RADIO FOR CARRYING HIS NAME ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
EVEN TODAY, I'M JUST A SIDESHOW TO THE MAIN EVENT.
KIKUHIKO-KUN HAS QUITE THE REPUTATION HERE TOO.
I'M IMPRESSED CONSIDERING HE'S STILL ONLY A FLITAT-SLIME.


I COULD MISTAKE HIM FOR A WOMAN EVEN THOUGH I KNOW HE'S A MAN.
HYA!
OH, IS THAT SO...?
SHIVER
HE'S HANDSOME LIKE YOU,
SO THE CROWD'S HEAD OVER HEELS FOR HIM
IT MUST BE NICE TO BE GOOD LOOKING.

HE WON THE "MOST POPULAR NEWCOMER" AWARD THE OTHER DAY.
I'M AS PROUD OF HIM AS I WOULD BE MY OWN SON.
SPEAKING OF SONS,
CAN I BOAST ABOUT MINE AS WELL?
Look here. He talks a lot. I'm looking forward to gradually molding him into a Hanashika.
HE HAD ANOTHER ONE HUH.

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'VE GOT A GLOOMY LOOK ON YOUR FACE.
THERE'S A LOT GOING ON...MANY TROUBLESOME THINGS STACKED ON TOP OF ONE ANOTHER.
WELL...
...ABOUT THAT...
GLOOM...
OH, REALLY...?
I SUGGESTED THE REVIVAL OF THE SHINUCHI SYSTEM HERE IN IWAGATA* TOO,
BUT IT'S STILL TOUGH EITHER WAY.

*TN: KANSAI AREA, KYOTO/OSAKA

IT'S A MESS...
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THAT OTHER RATHER AMUSING FUTATSUME OF YOURS?
LET'S STOP TALKING ABOUT SUCH DREARY THINGS.

AREN'T YOU ANGRY THAT I BOTCHED A PART OF MY RAKUGO?
DID YOU? I DIDN'T NOTICE.
HM?
I'M VERY SORRY.
FOR WHAT?
UM... MASTER?

I MADE A MISTAKE WITH ONE OF THE NAMES.
I SEE.
THAT'S FINE.
WHEN YOU HAVE 8 YEARS AS A FLITATSUME, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ATMOSPHERE.
IF YOU'RE FUNNY ENOUGH, THE AUDIENCE WILL TEND TO OVERLOOK IT.

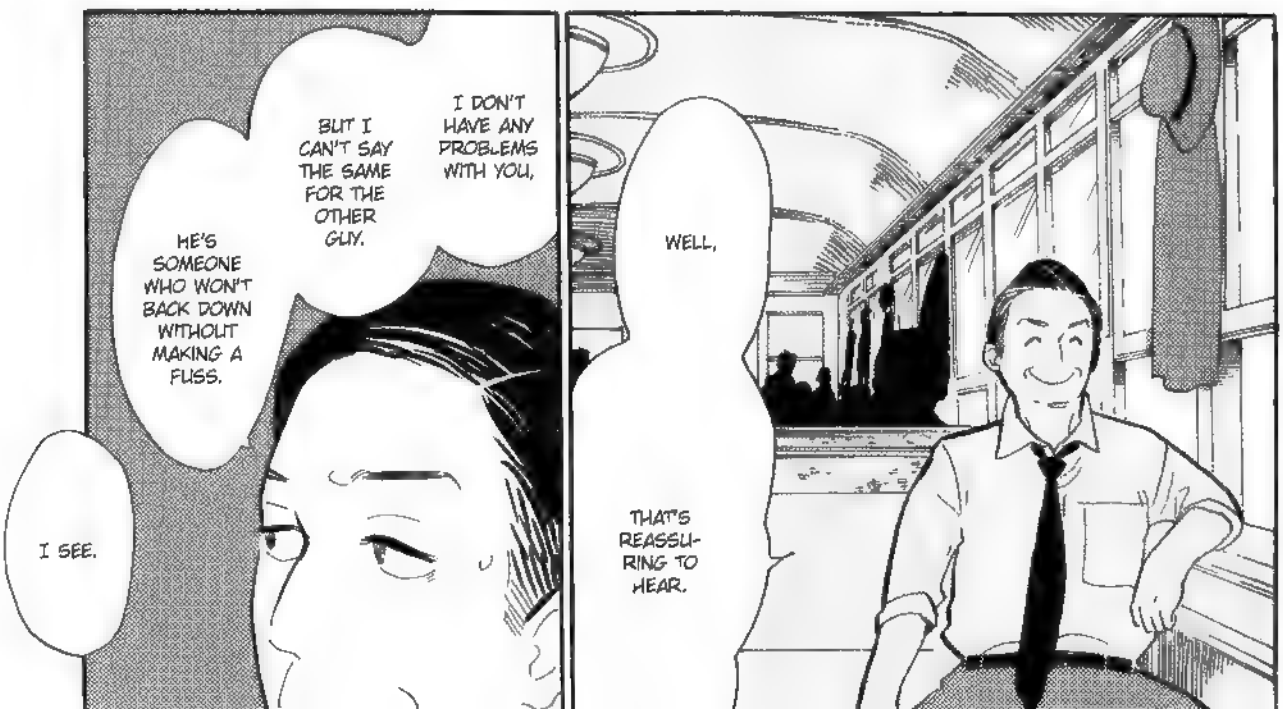
?
I WANT TO BECOME A SHINUCHI...
...AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN?
YEAH...

I'M TALKING WITH THE BOARD ABOUT IT RIGHT NOW.
I HAVE A LOT OF THINGS I WANT TO DO.

THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL THE SHOWMANSHIP OF A RAKUGOKA.
I ONLY TOOK MY EYES OFF YOU FOR A SHORT WHILE, YET YOU'VE CHANGED SO MUCH I CAN BARELY RECOGNISE YOU.
YOU'RE QUITE THE FLITATSUME.

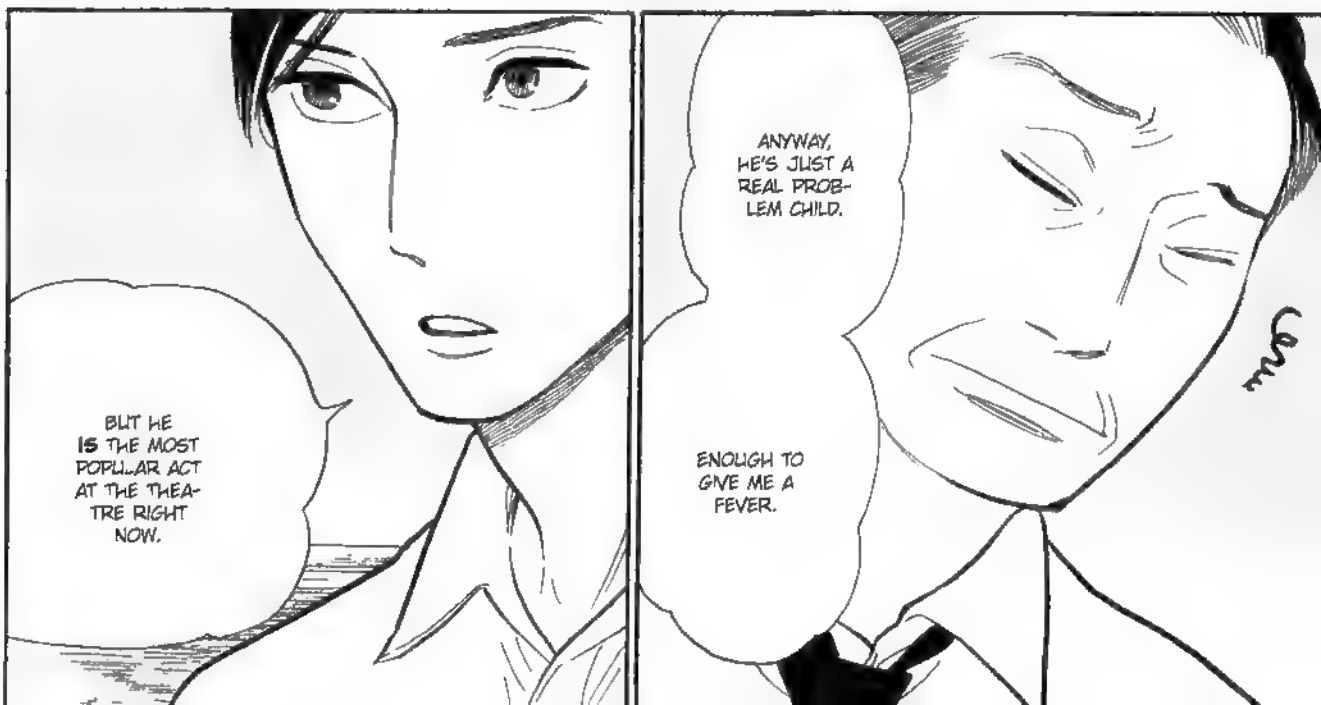
THE NUMBERS OF ZENZA ARE QUICK-LY RISING,
AND OUR GENERATION, ALTHOUGH FEW, CAN STILL DO A LOT FOR THEM.
EVERYTHING STARTS FROM BECOMING A SHINUCHI.
I CAN FI-NALLY REPAY THE MASTERS, THE THEATRE OWNER, THE SENIORS,
AND RA-KUGO AS A WHOLE FOR TAKING CARE OF ME ALL THIS TIME.

I'M ALSO REALLY ENJOYING PERFORMING RAKUGO RIGHT NOW.
I WANT TO GO UP ON STAGE MORE AND MORE.


I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH YOU,
BUT I CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR THE OTHER GUY.
HE'S SOMEONE WHO WON'T BACK DOWN WITHOUT MAKING A FUSS.
I SEE.
WELL,
THAT'S REASSU-RING TO HEAR.

DO YOU MEAN SUKEROKU-SAN?
I can imagine.
HMM-MM..
...THERE'S NO AMOUNT OF TROU-BLE THAT I COULD GO THROUGH...
..THAT WOULD ENSURE THAT HE BECOMES A SHIN-ICHI.
SIGH_

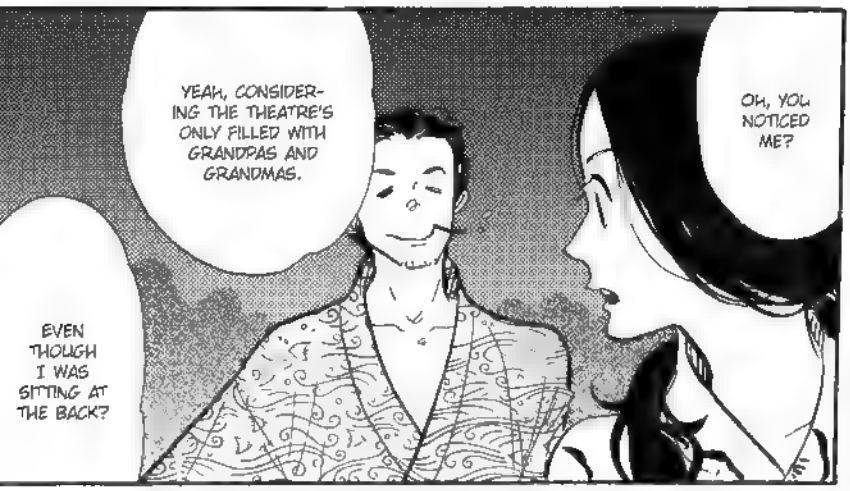
HIS CLOTHES ARE FILTHY,
HE NIT-PICKS AT THE GREAT MASTERS' RAKUGO,
HE'S PROMIS-CUOUS,
HE WON'T STOP DOING STORIES THAT ARE BE-YOND HIS LEVE.,
HE ACTS LIKE A BIGSHOT BACKS-TAGE,
THERE ARE WAY TOO MANY ELDERS THAT AREN'T TOO FOND OF HIM
I'VE HEARD ALL THIS BE-FORE.
THESE ARE THE ONES HE ALWAYS WHINES TO ME ABOUT.
I got told off again!
Yeah, yeah.


ANYWAY, HE'S JUST A REAL PROB-LEM CHILD.
ENOUGH TO GIVE ME A FEVER.
BUT HE IS THE MOST POPU-LAR ACT AT THE THEA-TRE RIGHT NOW.

WELL, THAT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.
HMPH
They say that everyone is born good and that people ultimately have good intentions at heart
On the other hand the crooks in these rakugo stories couldn't be further from that and are just full of the foolish stubborn types.
Those sneaky petty thieves always only seem to appear in the summer
Hey you stop BABBling and...
hand over every penny you've got
What the hell is this If I don't put it out
It's gonna burn to a crisp!

Well if not I'm gonna start yelling down the alleyway
Ha Ha Ha
Ha Ha Ha
Goddamn a thief ain't gonna start lending money to people!
What're ya tryna to say?
Ha Ha Ha
Ha Ha Ha
Ha Ha Ha
God
Ha
Ha
Ha
Ha
Ha
Wa
H
Ha
Ha
Ha
Ha

TN: TEXT ON SIGN SAYS "SUKEROKU"


YEAH, CONSIDERING THE THEATRE'S ONLY FILLED WITH GRANDPAS AND GRANDMAS.
EVEN THOUGH I WAS SITTING AT THE BACK?
OH, YOU NOTICED ME?

OH,
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? HE'S ON A TRIP RIGHT NOW
A TRIP?!
BUT I THOUGHT I COULD MAYBE FIND HIM HERE.
HIS NAME WASN'T ON THE SIGN,
KIKU-SAN DIDN'T COME ON.

THEY'VE BEEN GONE FOR A WHILE. HIM AND MASTER ARE ON A ROYAL PROCESSION* JUST THE TWO OF 'EM. HEH!
EVEN THOUGH HE NEVER INVITES ME TO ANYTHING.
I CAN'T GO TRAVELLING AROUND ANYWAY, SINCE I'M POPULAR HERE, SO IT'S PRETTY CONVENIENT FOR ME BUT...
Gah!

*TN: A ROYAL PROCESSION WAS WHEN FEUDAL LORDS (OR DAIMYOS) AND THEIR SOLDIERS MOVED FROM ONE DOMAIN TO ANOTHER IN THE EDO ERA

I NEED A DRINK TO TAKE MY MIND OFF OF THINGS TOO
WITH ALL THIS NOISE, NO ONE WILL HEAR YOU BAD-MOUTHING THAT FOX.
ONE DRINK FOR 30 MINUTES OF VENTING.
SHALL WE?
HEY,
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE NOT GONNA PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO THE GODDESS KANNON ON THE DAY OF A FESTIVAL
YOU COULD BUY ME A DRINK WHILE WE'RE HEADING THERE.

*TN: A DAY WHEN WORSHIPPING KANNON COUNTS FOR 1000 CONSECUTIVE DAYS

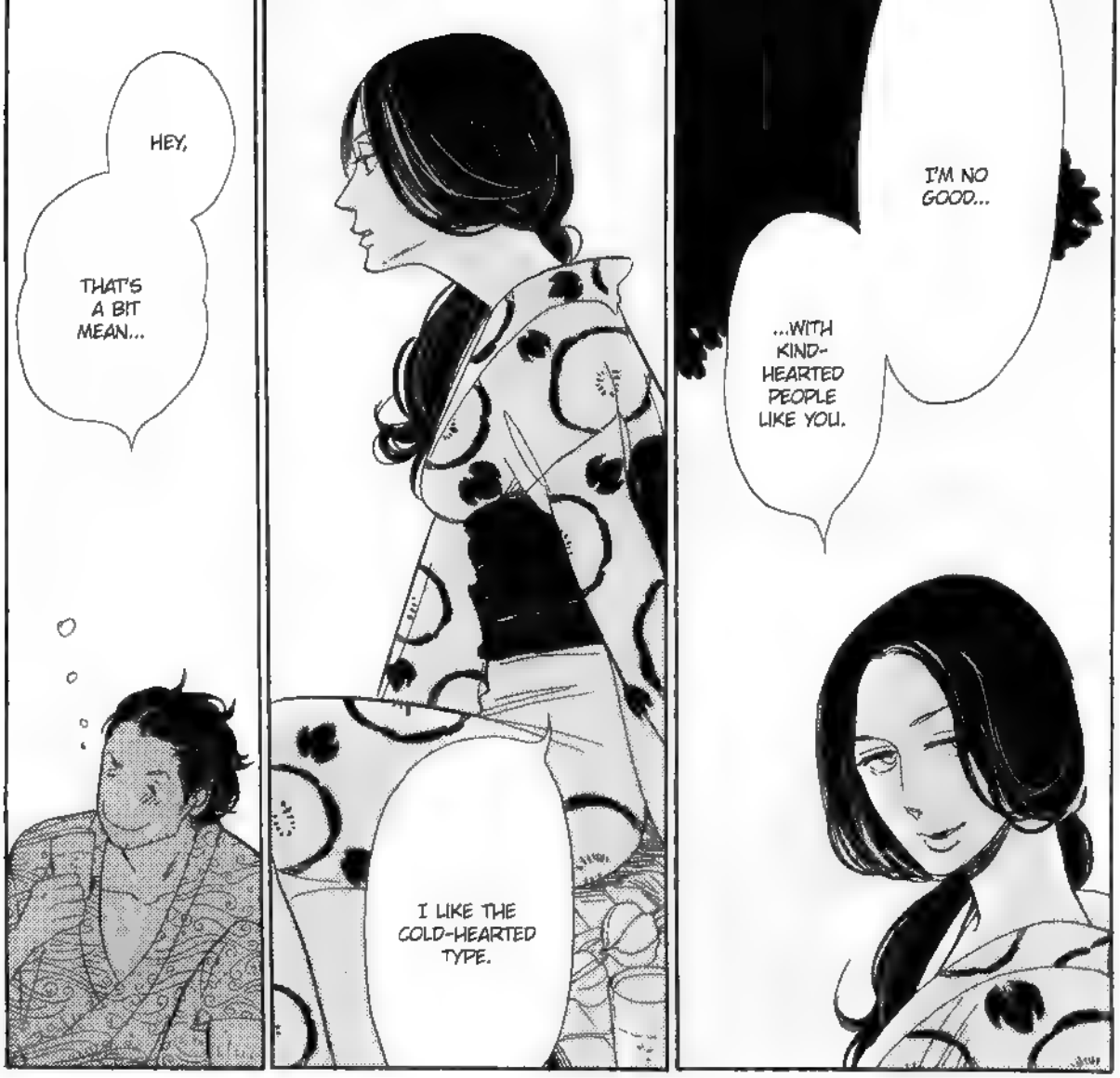
A MAN WOULDN'T GET THAT.
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE IN LOVE.
I WATCH IT BECAUSE OF HOW PRETTY KIKU-SAN LOOKS WHEN HE TALKS.
GO FIGURE! A WOMAN WOULDN'T GET IT.
I SURE DON'T.

I KNOW THAT...
...I CAN ENDURE ANYTHING FOR KIKU-SAN.

WHAT WAS HE THINKING?
THAT UNGRATEFUL FELLOW.
STILL...
HE KNEW HE WAS GOING TO BE GONE FOR A LONG TIME AND DIDN'T SAY A SINGLE WORD.

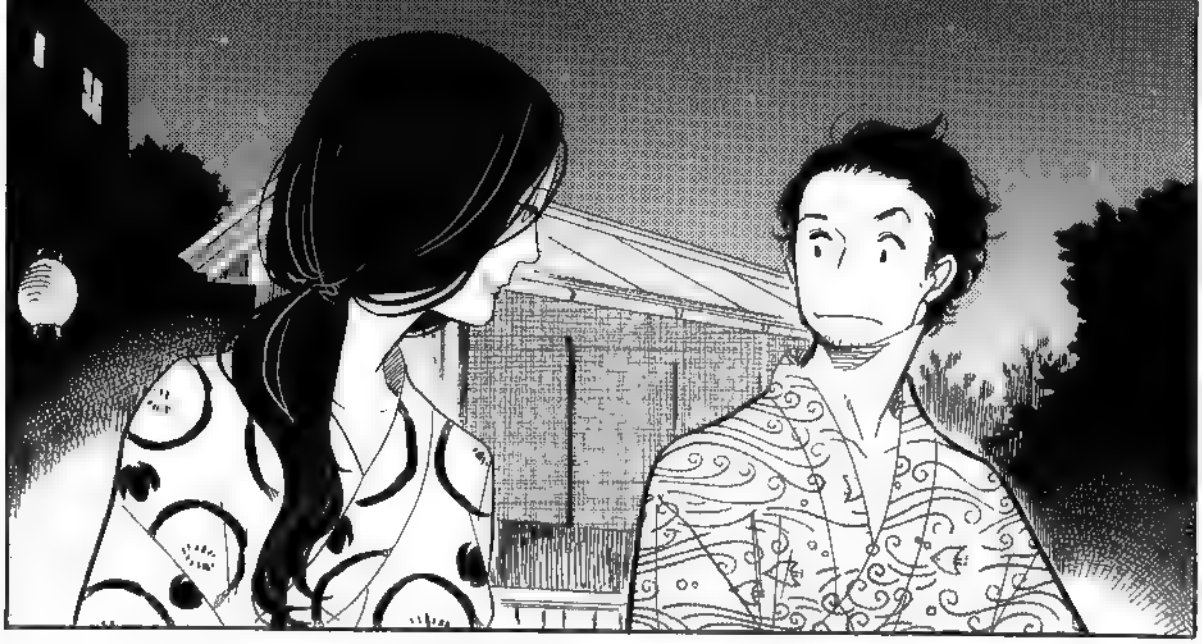
NOT ONLY DOES HE NOT TELL YOU THE IMPORTANT STUFF,
HE ALSO LIES ABOUT THE MOST CRUCIAL PARTS.
YEAH
AND ONCE HE SAYS NO TO SOMETHING, HE NEVER CHANGES HIS MIND.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
AND HE SUDDENLY GETS GRUMPY JUST OUT OF THE BLUE.
I KNOW...

IT'S FINE.
I'M USED TO BEING NEGLECTED.
THAT'S JUST HOW MEN ARE.
THEY NEVER TELL ME ABOUT ANYTHING IMPORTANT.
I KNOW THAT I'M STUPID,
SO IT'S EASIER THAT WAY.

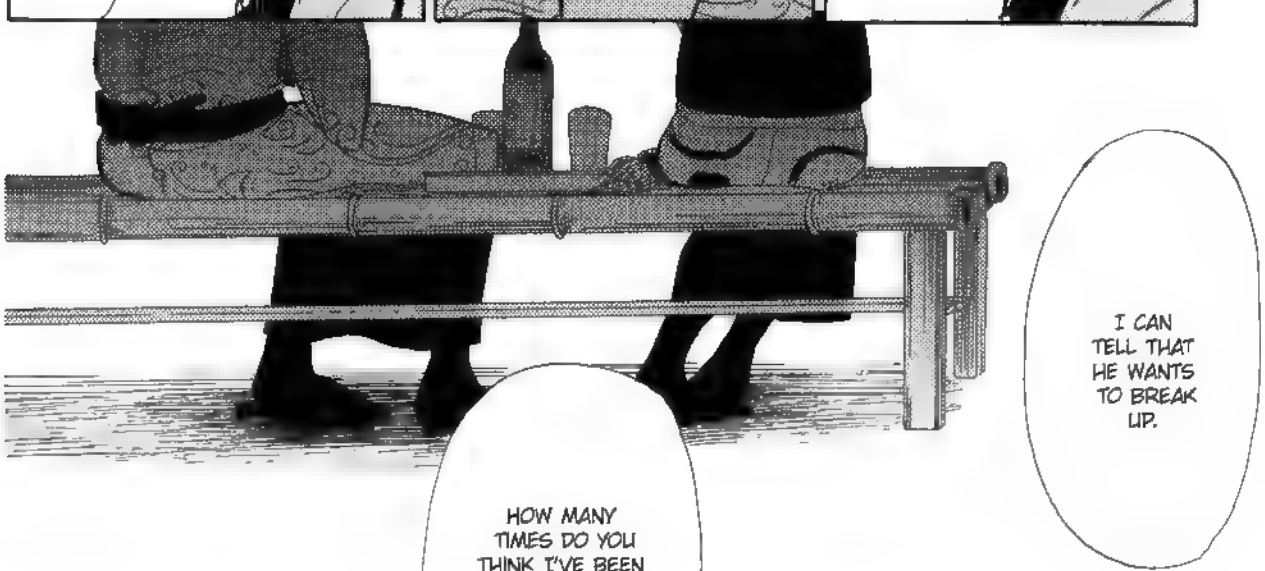

HEY,
THAT'S A BIT MEAN...
I LIKE THE COLD-HEARTED TYPE.
I'M NO GOOD...
...WITH KIND-HEARTED PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

I MET YAKUMO-SENSEI AND MANAGED TO GET A FRESH START AT LIFE.
THEN, AT A TIME LIKE THAT, IN A PLACE LIKE THAT,
I HAD TO SELL MY BODY TO SURVIVE.
I WAS FOOLED AND THEN ABANDONED.
IT WAS THE LOWEST POINT IN MY LIFE.
I LOST MY RELATIVES IN THE WAR AND WAS ALL ALONE.
...BECAUSE I WAS FOOLED BY A MAN.
I WENT TO MANCHURIA...

I DON'T WANT MONEY.
I DON'T WANT A JOB THAT I WANT TO DEDICATE MY LIFE TO LIKE YOU TWO.
I JUST WANT TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE PERSON THAT I LOVE FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART. AS A WOMAN.
SOME-THING ONLY A WOMAN CAN DO.
I NEVER WANT TO BE...
...ALONE AGAIN.

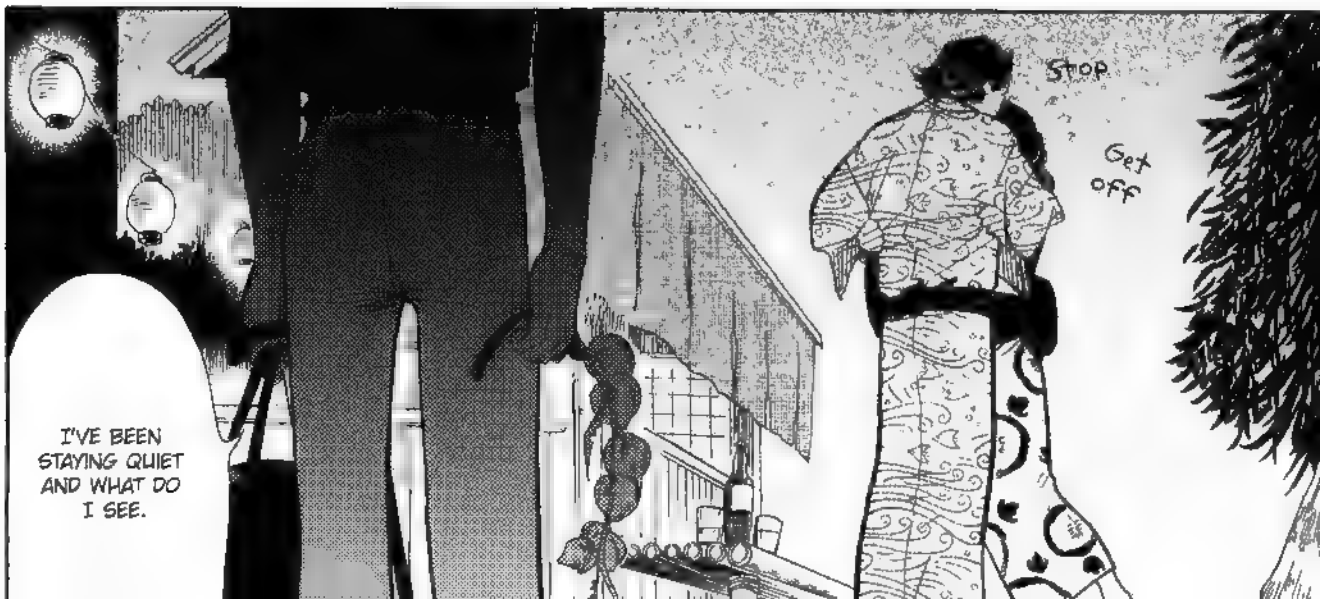


NO...
...THEY WON'T DO THAT.
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE WITH YAKUMO SENSEI OR KIKU-SAN.
I'M GOING TO BE ABANDONED AGAIN...
SEE, YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT TO COMFORT ME BECAUSE YOU'RE KIND.
STUPID.


I CAN TELL THAT HE WANTS TO BREAK UP.
HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS?

MY 30 MINUTES ARE UP.
SEE YOU...
WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW.
STOP.
WHAT?


I'VE BEEN STAYING QUIET AND WHAT DO I SEE.
Stop
Get off

KIKU-SAN!
I DIDN'T WANT TO INTERRUPT, SO I WAITED.
I RAN OUT OF WINTER CHERRY LANTERNS FOR THE HOME ALTAR.
SO I THOUGHT I'D BUY SOME ON MY WAY HOME...
*TN: BUDDHIST ALTARS OR BUTSUDAN ARE SHRINES COMMONLY FOUND IN JAPANESE HOMES OR TEMPLES
NO!
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG!
NOTHING HAPPENED.
PLEASE, BELIEVE ME.

SORRY I CAME AT SUCH A BAD TIME.
STOP.
WHY ARE **YOU** APOLO-GIZING?
YOU SHOULD BE ANGRY.
WHY?
I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO BE.
I'M NOT ANGRY AT ALL.

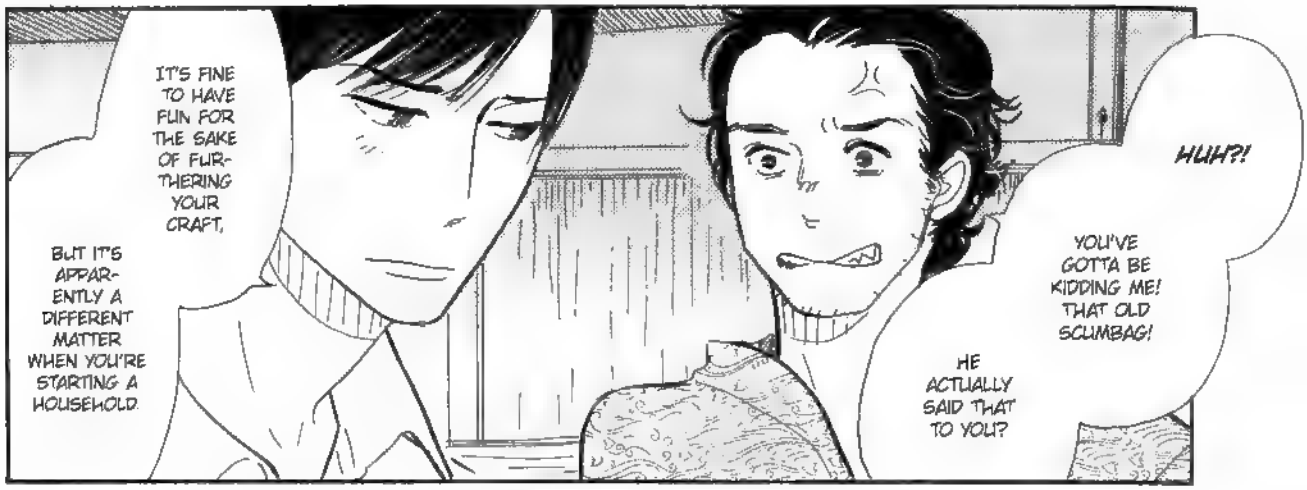
FWHIP
WAIT.
GRAB...
WERE YOU GOING TO HIT ME?
DO IT WITH SOME ACTUAL CONVICTION.
YOU IDIOT...!
OI! TRY MANNING UP FOR ONCE!
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
NO.
YOU GO.
Tsu-n
GO AFTER HER!
YOU IDIOT!
SHE NEEDS YOU!
TA-TA-TA-

I AM.
I JUST TOLD THE BIGGEST LIE OF MY LIFE.
I LOVE HER.
...ALSO THINKING OF BREAKING UP WITH HER.
BUT I'M...
IT'D BE UNFAIR TO HER IF I RAN AFTER HER IN MY CURRENT STATE OF MIND.
I'LL SORT OUT MY FEELINGS AND HAVE A PROPER TALK WITH HER LATER.

TENNESSEE
LIVE JAZZ
LET'S GO GRAB A DRINK, EH.
I'M SORRY...
I SHOULD'VE NOTICED THAT I'M IN NO POSITION TO TELL YOU OFF.

MASTER TOLD ME DURING THE TRIP...
This place is so uncomfortable

THAT IT'S ABOUT TIME I CUT TIES WITH WOMEN LIKE THAT...
...AND GET MYSELF A PROPER LADY TO START A FAMILY WITH.


IT'S FINE TO HAVE FUN FOR THE SAKE OF FURTHERING YOUR CRAFT,
BUT IT'S APPARENTLY A DIFFERENT MATTER WHEN YOU'RE STARTING A HOUSEHOLD.
HUH?!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME! THAT OLD SCUMBAG!
HE ACTUALLY SAID THAT TO YOU?

...EVEN I KNOW THAT'S WRONG.
OF COURSE NOT...
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GONNA JUST DO AS HE SAYS AND BREAK UP WITH HER...
BUT...

DEFY HIM,
GET EX-PELLED,
AND BECOME UNABLE TO PERFORM RAKUGO?
TO SAC-RIFICE ALL THAT JUST FOR HER...
...I CAN'T IMAGINE MYSELF DOING THAT.
Tweet!
CLAP
YEAH,
I DON'T WANT TO REGRET IT.
CLAP
CLAP
I GUESS IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND...
I SEE...
WELL.
THAT'S PROBABLY BEST FOR ME...
RIGHT NOW,
I DON'T WANT TO MARRY ANYBODY.
I JUST WANT TO BE ALONE.

SO, I'M IN YOUR WAY TOO.
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'D BE EASY FOR ME IF I COULD BE BY YOUR SIDE...
...LISTENING TO YOUR RAKUGO FOREVER.
AND IT MAKES ME WANT TO SHARE EVERYTHING WITH YOU.
YOU INTRODUCE ME TO NEW THINGS,
WHEN I'M WITH YOU, EVERYTHING IS FUN.

DON'T BLAME OTHERS FOR WHAT YOU CAN'T DO.
YOU CAN'T DO RAKUGO WITHOUT OTHER PEOPLE AROUND.
BUT THEN I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FACE MY OWN RAKUGO.
Hm...
I'M NOT LIKE YOU.
YOU'VE LONG SURPASSED ME, SO YOU DON'T LOOK BEHIND YOU AND SEE...
...JUST HOW MUCH I'VE BEEN SUFFERING IN YOUR SHADOW.
REALLY...
I...
I...

SO THAT'S HOW YOU'VE BEEN FEELING.
Theeere
There
There
SMACK!
OW!
I GUESS THERE'S NO NEED TO BE TOGETHER ANYMORE.
IT'S TIME TO PART WAYS.
IF YOU'RE OKAY BEING ALONE,
THEN THAT'S FINE WITH ME.

WE MIGHT HAVE DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO THINGS.
BUT OUR DECISION TO CHOOSE THIS WAY OF LIFE FOR OUR LOVE FOR RAKUGO WILL NEVER CHANGE, GOT IT?
LOOK AROUND.
EVERY-THING ABOUT JAPAN CHANG-ED AFTER THE WAR ENDED.
YET RAKUGO HASN'T CHANGED A SINGLE BIT.
ITS POPULARITY HAS MADE IT COMPLACENT AND EVEN MORE AFRAID TO CHANGE.
IT'S FINE RIGHT NOW. BUT...
FOR NOW THOUGH, I JUST WANT TO PERFORM RAKUGO THAT APPEALS THE MOST TO THE AUDIENCE.
...FOR IT TO BE AN ENTERTAINMENT FOR PEOPLE FOR YEARS TO COME, IT'S NO GOOD.
IN ANY AGE.
TO DO THAT, I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO CHANGE TO SUIT THE AUDIENCE ALL THE TIME.

YOU CAN'T CALL THAT RAKUGO ANYMORE.
THAT'S WRONG.
YOU HAVE A POINT.
WE NEED RAKUGO THAT NEVER CHANGES.
THAT IS ALSO THE ESSENCE OF RAKUGO.

THAT'S **YOUR** JOB.
DON'T FORGET THAT.
LET'S JUST PROMISE EACH OTHER THAT MUCH.

FWEEET
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
TENNESSEE
OKAY.

BY THE WAY...
...I'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK...

"CAN I BORROW MONEY?"
YOU GUESSED IT~!
THAT'S MY BOY.
THE ONLY FAVORS YOU ASK FOR ARE ABOUT MONEY.

I MEAN, YOU ASKED ME TO GET OUT SO SUDDENLY,
I haven't even taken a bath since you haven't told me off about it yet.
AND I DRANK ALL MY MONEY AWAY WHILE YOU WEREN'T AROUND.
ALRIGHTY THEN, FOR MY FAREWELL GIFT...
Let me see if there's anything~
THIS IS **ABSO-LUTELY** THE LAST TIME!
SLAM!
THERE'S AN IMPORTANT SHOW TO PERFORM TOMORROW,
SO PLEASE GET OUT AS SOON AS YOU CAN.
AH.

SCREW OFF.
FWISH
OI!
DANGLE
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS.
YOU UNGRATE-FUL BAS-TARD...
IT'S BLESS-ED YOU KNOW.
Flick.
OH~ I'M SURPRISED YOU NOTICED.
YOU'VE HAD THAT THING SINCE YOU BECAME AN APPRENTICE, RIGHT?
CARRYING THAT FILTHY THING LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT. WHAT IS IT?

TN: THE TEXT ON FAN SAYS "SUKEROKU"
助六
Flick...ck...
"SUKEROKU"?
YEAH.
IT'S THE NAME OF THE OLD GEEZER THAT TOOK CARE OF ME BACK AT THE SHELTER.
助六
IT'S THE STAGE NAME HE GAVE HIMSELF WHEN HE WAS IN THE TENGU-REN*.
EVERYBODY CALLED HIM THAT, BUT NO ONE ACTUALLY KNEW HIS REAL NAME.
Ha Ha
THAT'S WHY I'M THE SECOND GENERATION.
*TN: GROUPS OF AMATEUR RAKUGO STORY-TELLERS

SO, HE HAD TO TURN TO THE STREETS,
AND ENDED UP AT THE SHELTER. HE PICKED ME UP AND RAISED ME AS A RESULT.
THIS SUKEROKU-SAN WAS APPARENTLY THE APPRENTICE OF THE YAKUMO PREDECESSOR, THAT IS, THE ONE BEFORE OUR MASTER.
BUT SOME-HOW THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT.

ONE'S AN ESTA-BLISHED MASTER.
THE OTHER, DEAD IN SOME SHELTER.
I'M SURE THAT MASTER HAS MET HIM.
BUT, I DON'T THINK HE EVEN REMEM-BERS HIS FACE.

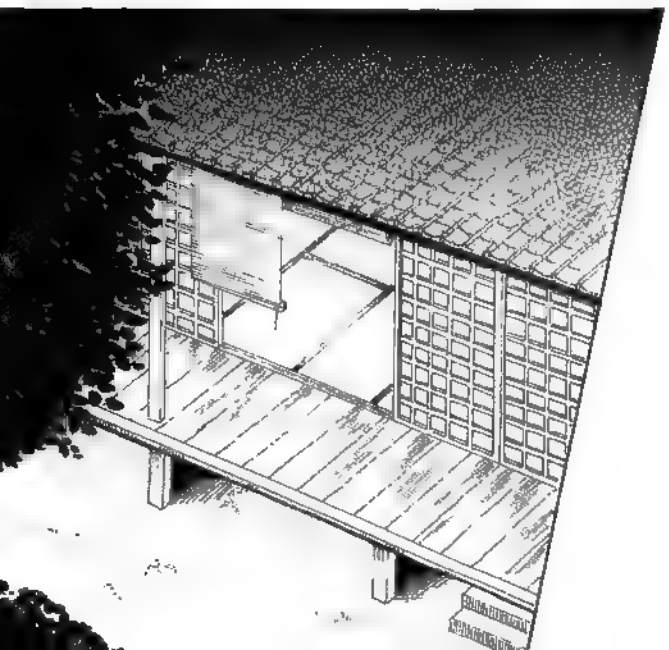
I'M SCARED...
...THAT MAYBE I'LL END UP LIKE HIM SOMEDAY.
THAT'S WHY WHEN I PASSED THROUGH THAT GATE, I PROMISED TO MYSELF THAT I'D SURE AS HELL BECOME THE NEXT YAKUMO.

ISN'T IT FUNNY?
THE DEAD SUKEROKU BECOMING THE YAKUMO.

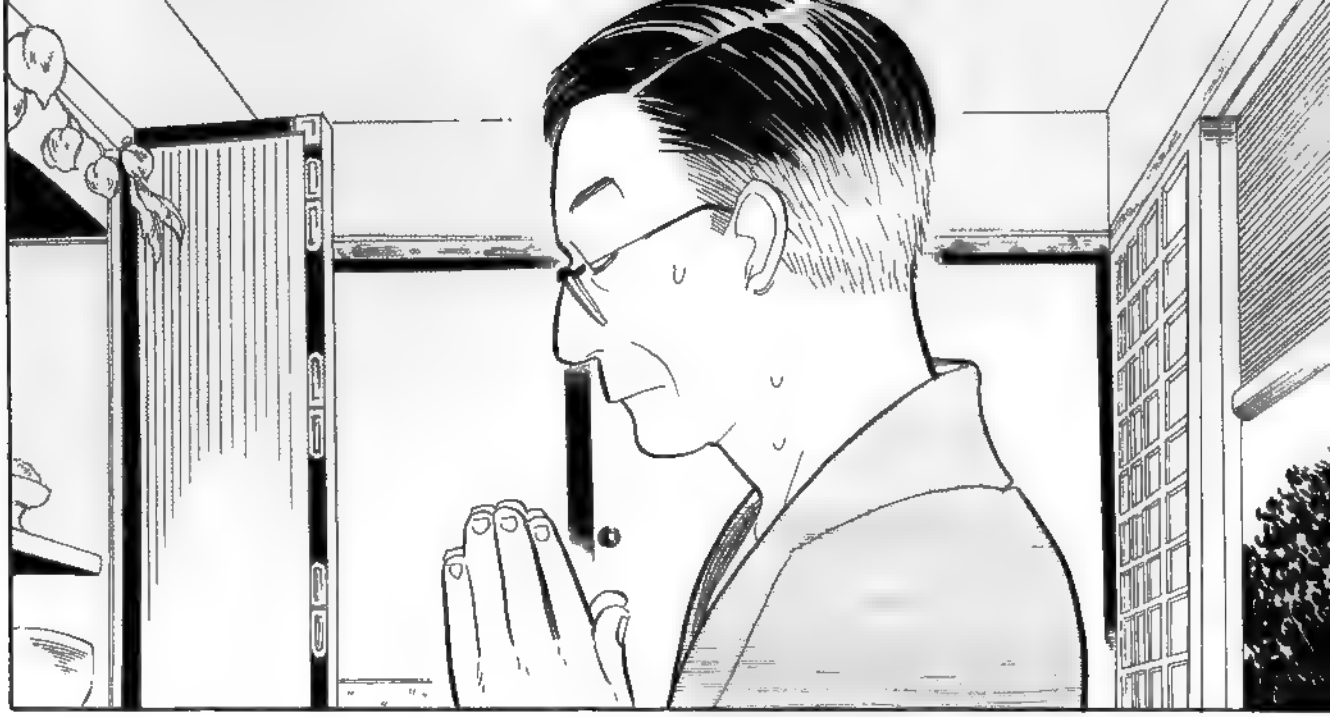
I DON'T WANT IT EI-THER.
THINK OF IT AS ME AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT!
I GUESS I SHOU-LD CALL MYSELF THE THIRD SUKEROKU, THEN.
Ha Ha!
SO I DON'T NEED THIS ANYMORE.
MY NAME'S GONNA BE CHANGED,
Here you go.

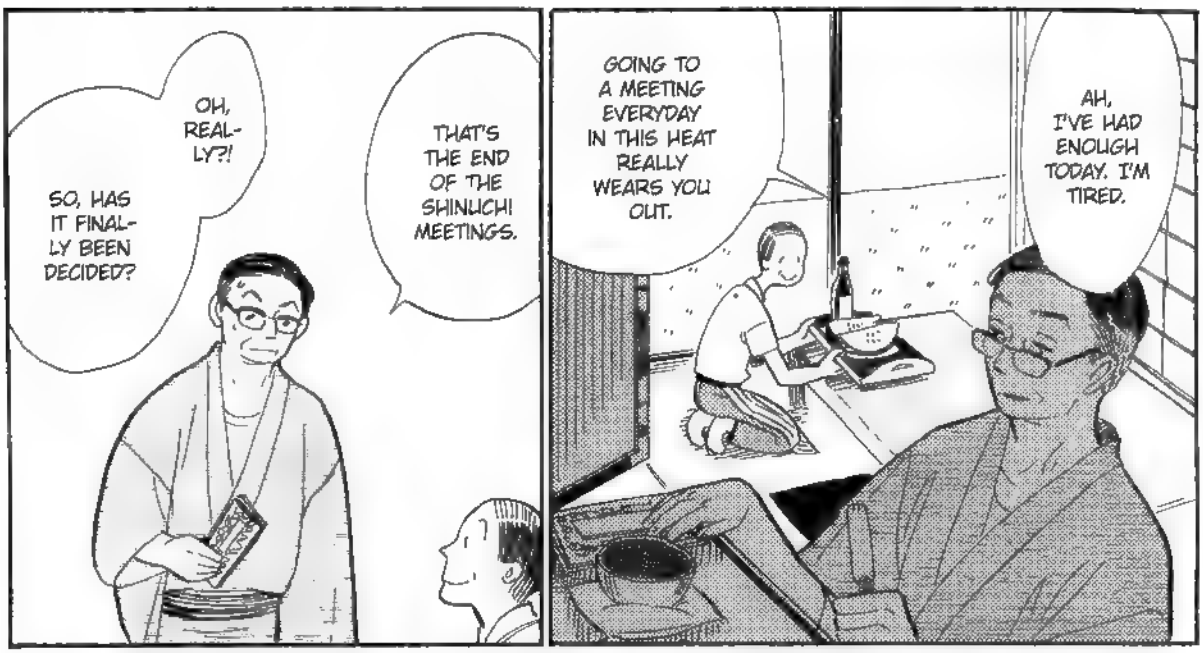
I THINK SO, TOO.
Snap
YEAH, BUT,
JUDGING BY BOTH SKILL AND TECHNIQUE, YOU SHOULD INHERIT THE NAME OF YAKUMO WHEN THE TIME COMES.

LET'S GIVE IT OUR ALL.
Squeeze
Squeeze



WAAHHH
It's gonna be tough after all.
HE STINKS.



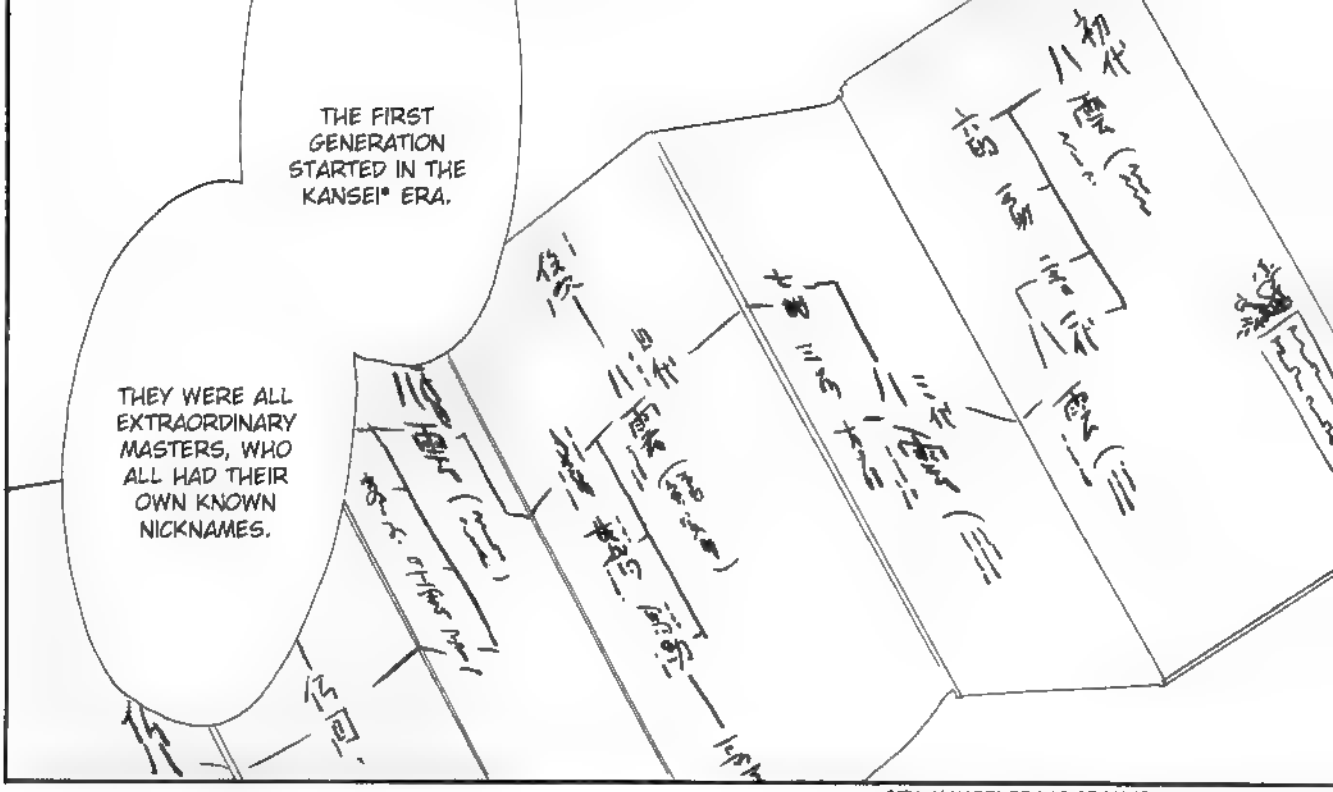

AH, I'VE HAD ENOUGH TODAY. I'M TIRED.
GOING TO A MEETING EVERYDAY IN THIS HEAT REALLY WEARS YOU OUT.
THAT'S THE END OF THE SHINUCHI MEETINGS.
OH, REAL-LY?!
SO, HAS IT FINAL-LY BEEN DECIDED?

YEAH.
GETTING YOUR OWN APPRENTICES MOVED UP A RANK IS GENERALLY HARD.
I HAVE TO SAY, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME IN MY LONG LIFE...
...THAT I'VE GONE THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR SOMEONE.

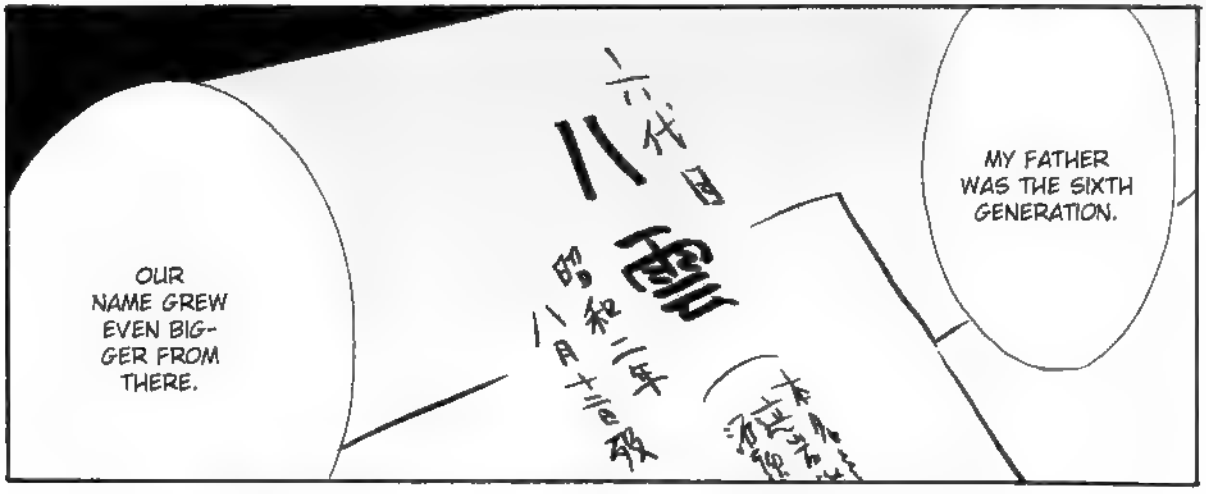
THAT DID MOST OF THE CONVINCING.
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT'S GOING TO GENERATE A LOT OF BUZZ.
BUT, BOTH OF THEM ARE ON A ROLL RIGHT NOW,
IT WAS MET WITH A LOT OF OPPOSITION...
HMM... YES.
THAT MEANS BOTH OF THEM ARE...?

...Don't tell the wife.
Go on and drink
WE SHOULD HAVE A TOAST.
THAT'S AMAZING.

BUT WHEN SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENS, I CAN'T HELP BUT LET THEM KNOW.
I USUALLY KEEP IT IN THE ALTAR.
GENERATION AFTER GENERATION OF OUR MASTERS ARE ALL ON HERE.
WELL, THIS IS- YURAKUTEI'S FAMILY RECORD.
WHAT IS THAT?
Flip-pp

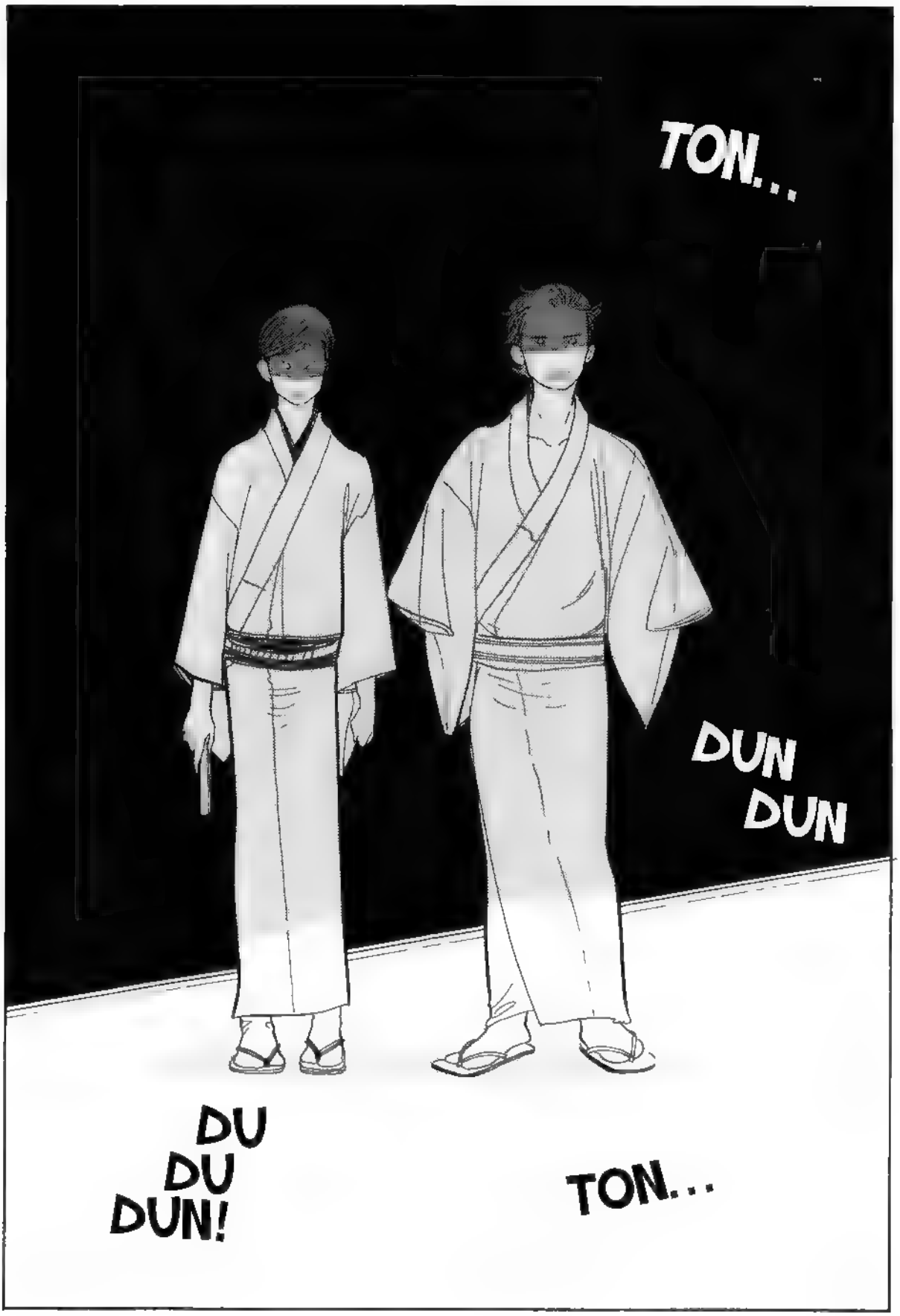

THE FIRST GENERATION STARTED IN THE KANSEI* ERA.
THEY WERE ALL EXTRAORDINARY MASTERS, WHO ALL HAD THEIR OWN KNOWN NICKNAMES.

*TN: KANSEI ERA IS FROM 1789.1.25 TO 1801.2.5



TO INHERIT SUCH A FAMILY NAME IS NO ORDINARY MATTER.
YOU NEED TO HAVE THE GUTS...
...TO PROPERLY HOLD THE WEIGHT OF BEING THE HEAD OF THE YURAKUTEI FAMILY...

THAT IS NOT TRUE!!
YOU'VE DONE A MAGNIFICENT JOB INHERITING THE NAME OF THE 7TH GENERATION.
HOWEVER, ULTIMATELY, I COULD NOT...
...HOLD ITS NAME...
HOWEVER, THE THOUGHT OF BEING OVERWHELMED BY MY OWN NAME...
...WILL ALWAYS LINGER AROUND FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
IS THAT SO.
IT'LL BE FORTUNATE IF IT COULD BE SEEN THAT WAY.
EVEN THOUGH SOME DAY...
...SOMEONE ELSE WILL INHERIT THIS NAME...


TON...
DUN
DUN
DU
DU
DUN!
TON...

Shouwa
Genroku
Rakugo Shinjuu
Haruko Kumota

HelveticaScans

ヘルベチカ漫画

Shouwa Genroku Rakugo Shinjuu

Chapter 10

Haruko Kumota

ONLINE	Raws
HIROFUJI	Translating
CAT ASTROPHY	Editing
HAKOBU, JON RYUGA	Typesetting
MILNIVEK, ROXY	Proofreading
ECCHAN	Quality Check

HELVETICA IS
LOOKING FOR
RAW PROVIDERS!
CLICK THE JOIN US BUTTON
ON OUR SITE TO APPLY!
RAWS NEEDED ARE GRAND BLUE (FUTURE) AND KINGS' VIKING.

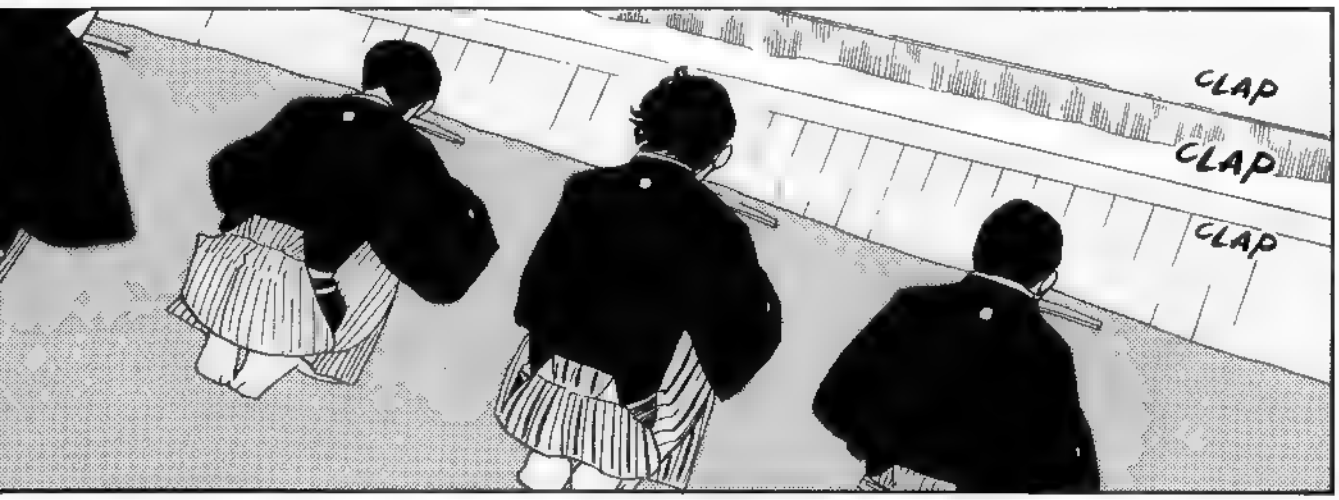
SHOUWA GENROKU

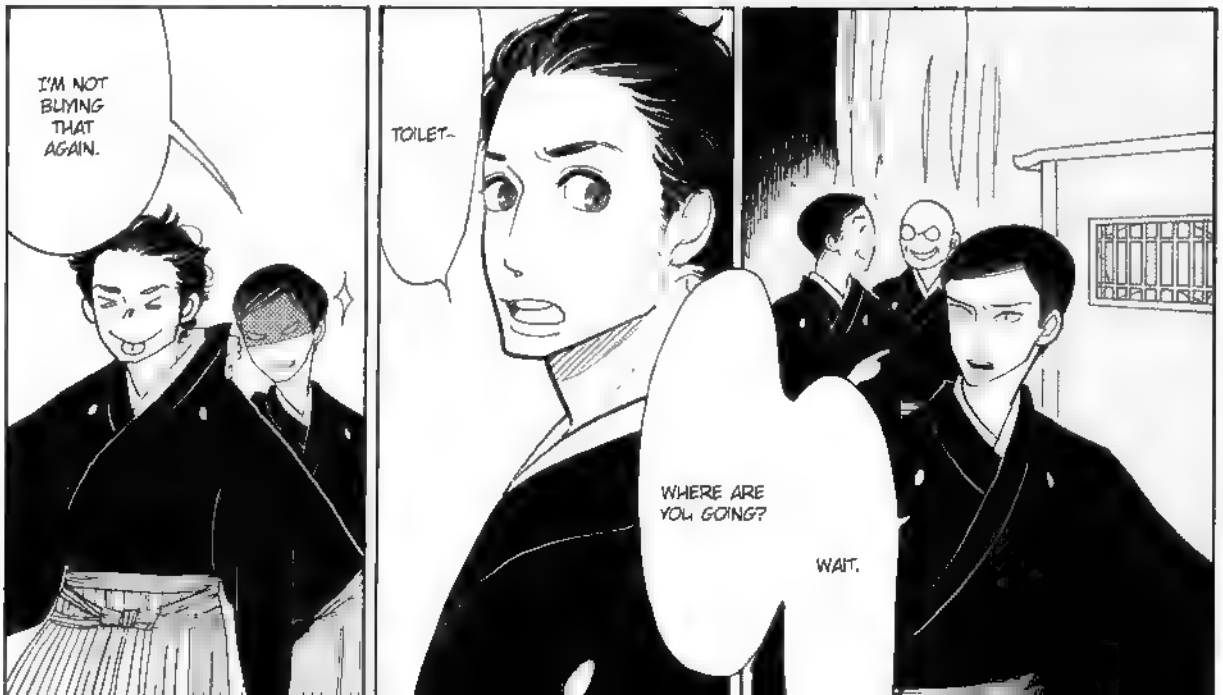
RAKUGO SHINJUU

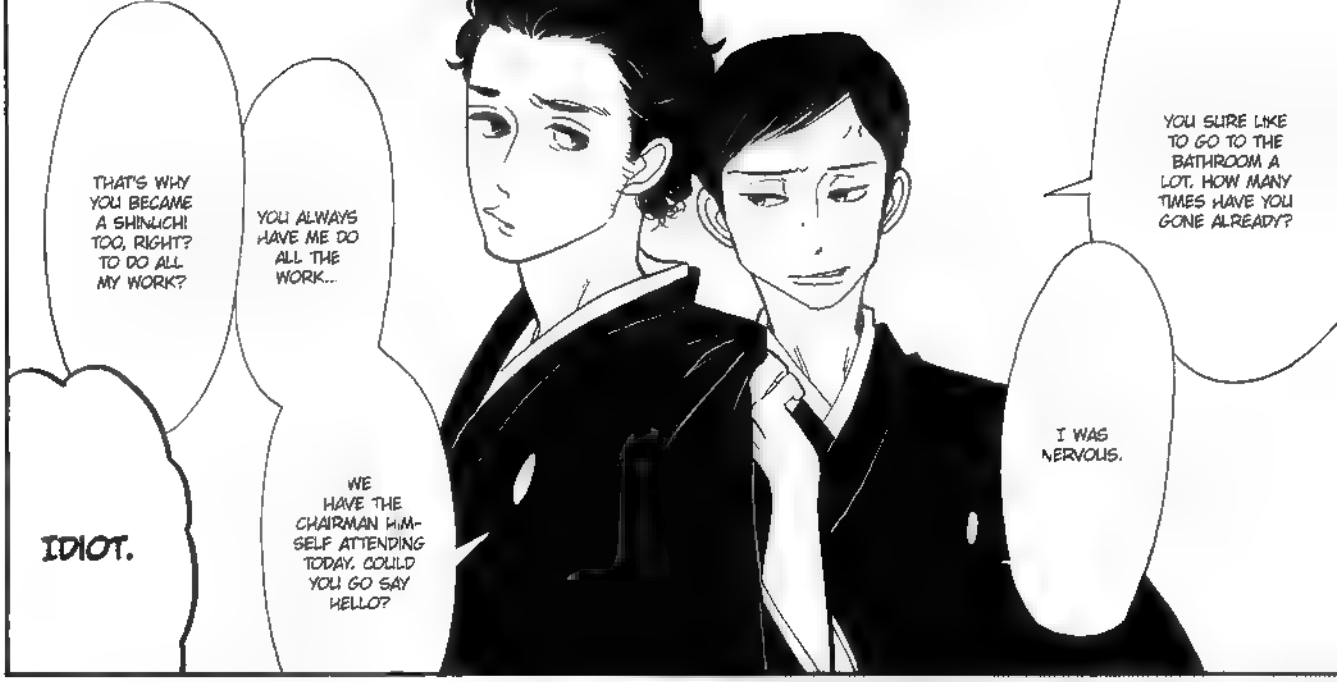
Yakumo and Sukeroku Arc Chapter Five

TN: WHAT THEY ARE A[illegible] PERFORMING IS A JAPANESE RITUAL CALLED "TEJIME" WHICH IS AN ELABORATE RITUALIZED FORM OF APPLAUSE

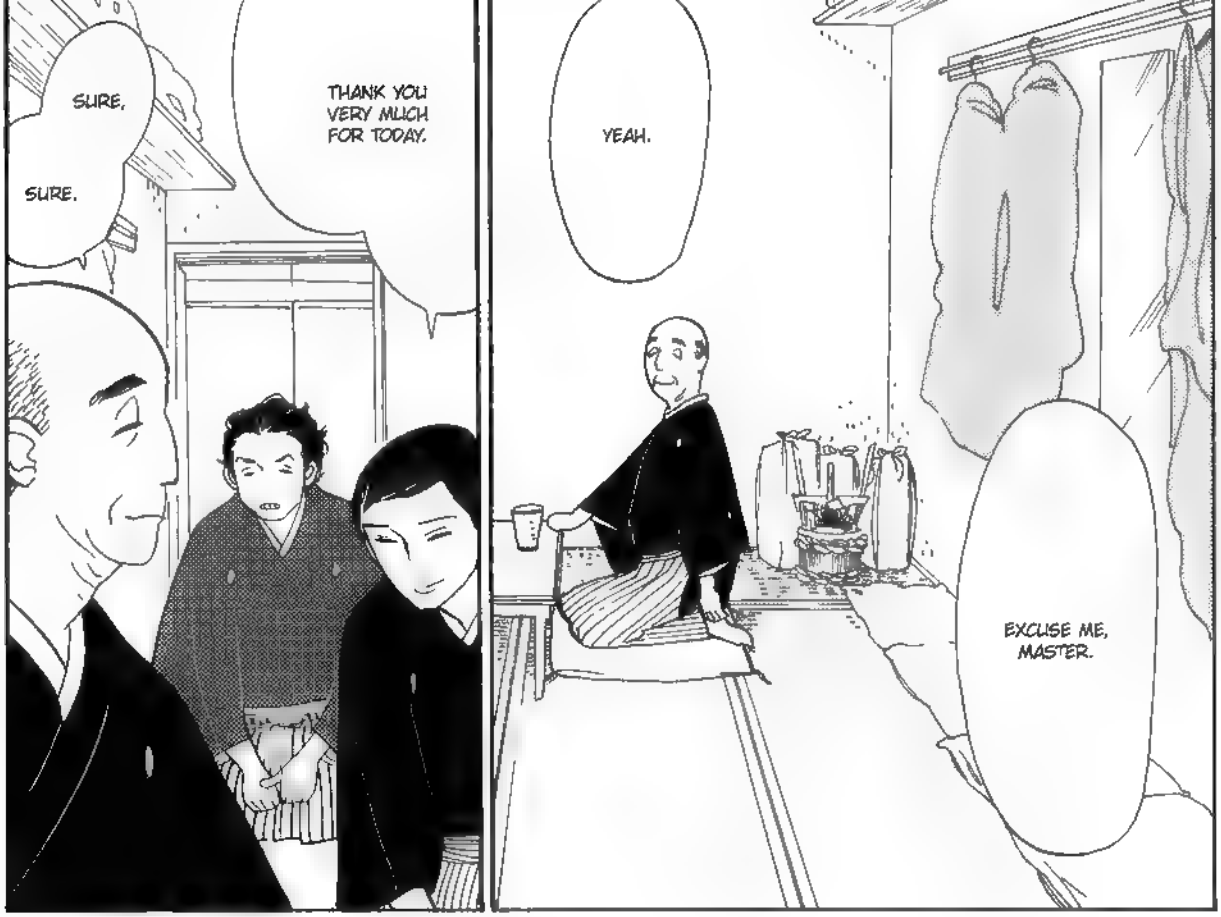
TODAY IS THE FINAL DAY OF THE SHINUCHI ADVANCEMENT CEREMONY.
OF THESE TWO PROMISING YOUNG MEN.
PLEASE SIT BACK, RELAX, AND ENJOY THE SHOW UNTIL OUR LAST FEATURED PERFORMER FOR THE DAY.


CLAP
CLAP
CLAP


I'M NOT BUYING THAT AGAIN.
TOILET-
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WAIT.

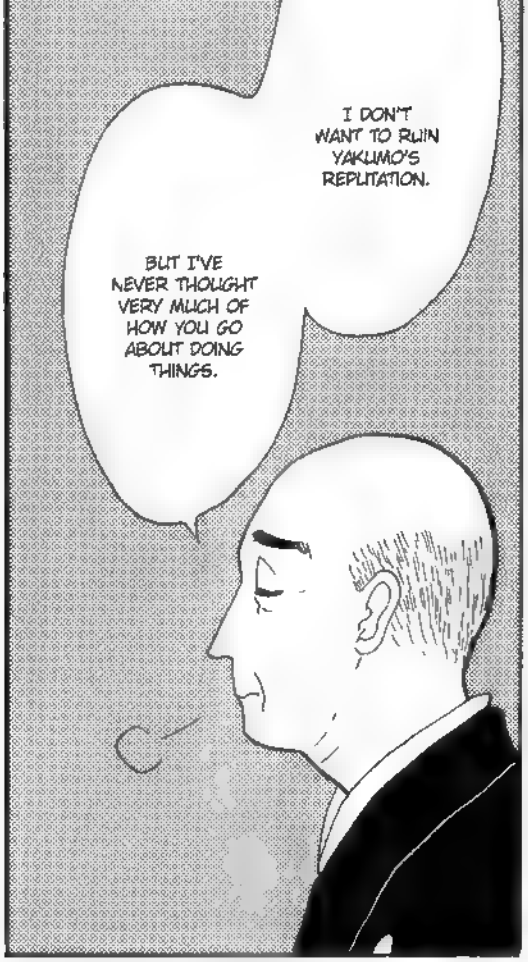

YOU SURE LIKE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM A LOT. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU GONE ALREADY?
I WAS NERVOUS.
YOU ALWAYS HAVE ME DO ALL THE WORK...
THAT'S WHY YOU BECAME A SHINJUCHI TOO, RIGHT? TO DO ALL MY WORK?
WE HAVE THE CHAIRMAN HIMSELF ATTENDING TODAY. COULD YOU GO SAY HELLO?
IDIOT.

IF I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, I'D PROBABLY CHOOSE YOU TO BE THE MAIN PERFORMER.
TRY TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.
I WENT TO SO MUCH TROUBLE PICKING OUT THIS CRESTED KIMONO,
BUT IT'S ALL BATTERED ALREADY.
HUH?
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO WEAR IT OUT THIS QUICKLY? SERIOUSLY...
GRIN GRIN
I WAS THINKING ABOUT HOW I'M GOING TO MISS YOUR NAGGING.
WHAT?
CUT IT OUT.


SURE.
SURE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TODAY.
YEAH.
EXCUSE ME, MASTER.

IT'S DELIGHTFUL THAT WE'RE PRODUCING SHINUCHI LIKE THE TWO OF YOU.
THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN THAT OFTEN.
ESPE-CIALLY WHILE I'M STILL CHAIRMAN.
IT WAS A SUC-CESS.
VERY IMPRES-SIVE.

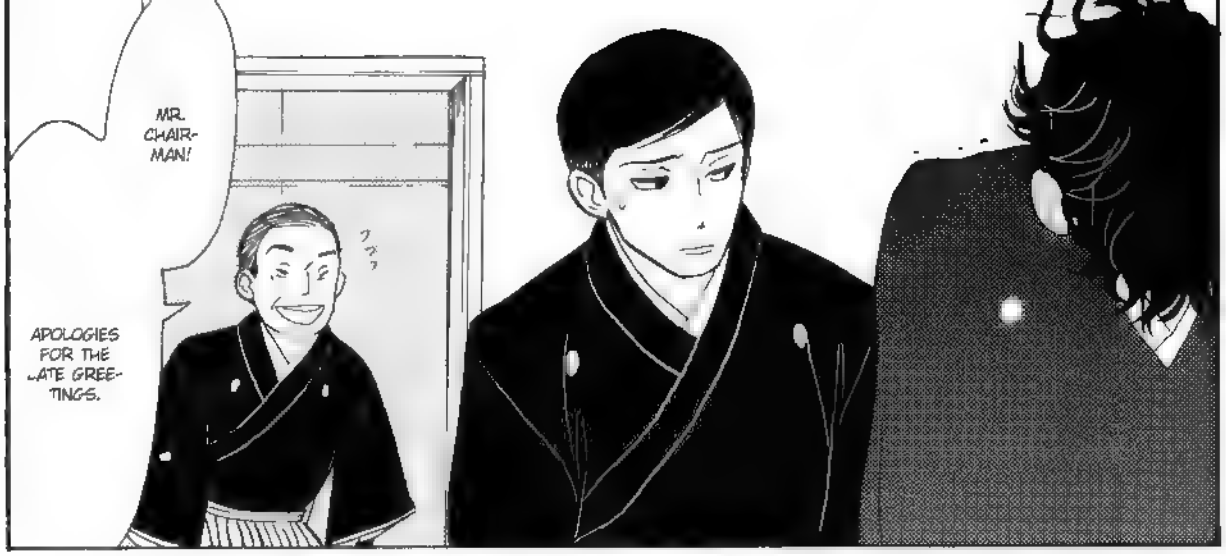
...BUT TO BE HONEST, I WAS AGAINST THIS.
WE HAVE SO FEW IN THIS GENERATION...
...THAT THERE WASN'T MUCH I COULD DO ABOUT IT...


I DON'T WANT TO RUIN YAKUMO'S REPUTATION.
BUT I'VE NEVER THOUGHT VERY MUCH OF HOW YOU GO ABOUT DOING THINGS.

IT'S SUKEROKU.
Hmm...
YOU, THE FILTHY ONE. WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A NAME AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO REMEM-BER IT

JUST BE DILIGENT.
BUT ALAS, IT'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.

SURE...
WHAT KIND OF REPLY WAS THAT?
YES, SIR.


MR. CHAIR-MAN!
APOLOGIES FOR THE LATE GREE-TINGS.

Eek!
GOD-DAMMIT! THAT MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL!

TAP

YOU AND THAT MASTER REALLY GET ALONG LIKE OIL AND WATER.
RIGHT?!
THAT OLD GEEZER!
HE DIDN'T NEED TO SAY **ALL THAT** TODAY OF ALL DAYS!

.WHAT DO YOU HAVE PREPARED AS THE LAST PERFORMER?
I'LL SHUT HIM UP WITH MY RAKUGO.
JUST YOU WATCH.

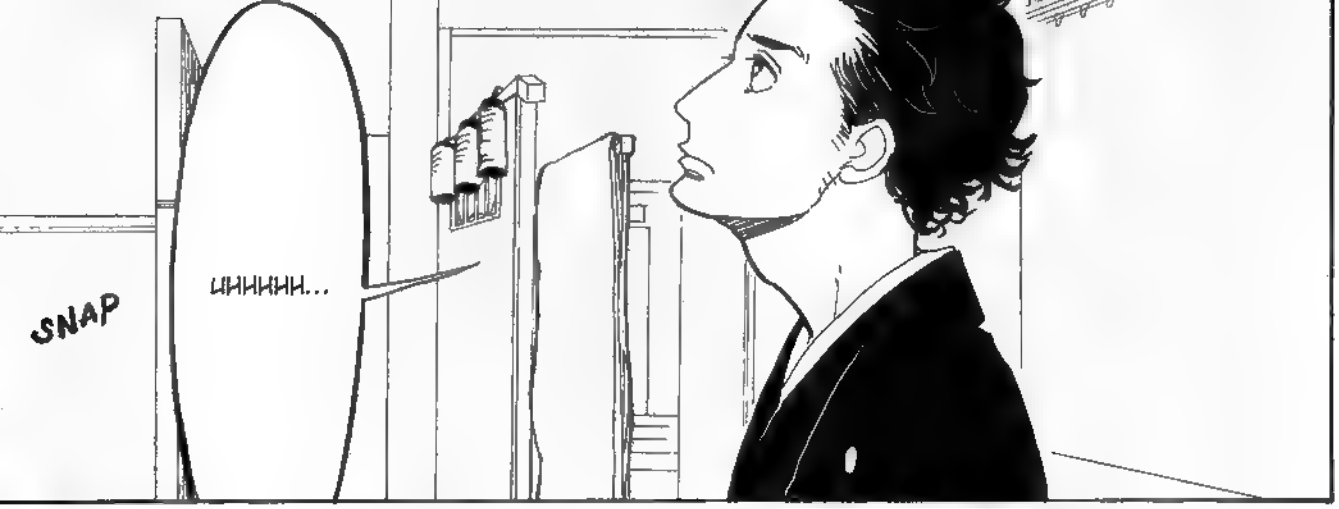
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D ACTUALLY DO IT.
HMM... I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT IT, BUT I WANNA GO OUT WITH A BANG.

IT SURE LEFT THEM SPEECHLESS!
NO SURPRISES THERE! AFTER ALL, I'M A GENIUS.

TELLING A DIFFERENT STORY EACH DAY OF THE CEREMONY

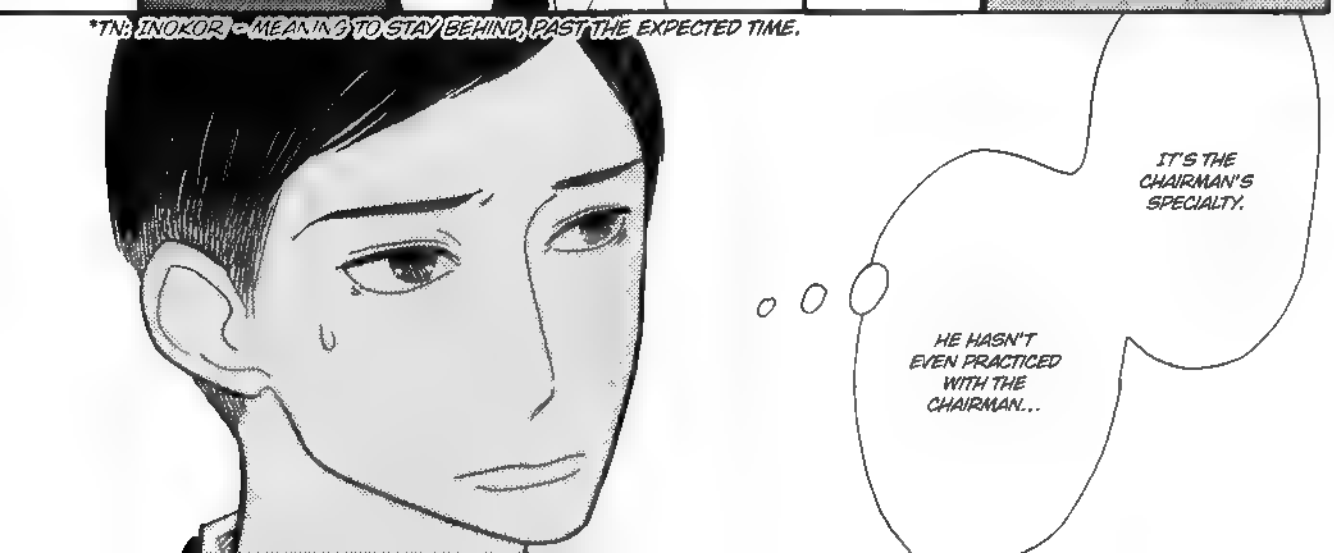
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ALL FOR IT AND DO IT TOO.
YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT.
HUFF..
DID YOU HOLD BACK BECAUSE OF ALL THE MASTERS THERE?
YOU SURE PLAYED IT SAFE.
YOUR HEAD HAS GOTTEN REALLY SWOLLEN.
...WITH ALL THAT ARRO-GANCE.
OH, WELL.
BORING, BORING.
THE AUDIENCE LIKES IT.

TO TON
TON
Twang Twong
TON
Twang Twong
Twingaling
CLAP
Twang Twang
SHIN-
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
We've been waiting!
Yo!
Woah!
Master Sukeroku!
FWEEE
CLAP
TO TON
TON
TON
THANK YOU. THANK YOU.
FINALLY, THE LAST PERFORMER OF THE DAY, SUKEROKU THE SHINUCHI, IS HERE!



SNAP
SNAP
When it comes to pleasure, there are upper, middle and lower classes of customers
The upper class are those who do not go to the red-light district. The middle class go in the afternoon and leave the same afternoon. And the lower class go at night and leave in the morning.
Below the lower class are the ones who linger,
and the class even further below them are the inokori*, the ones that outstay their welcome
It seems that the inokori were not well liked.
'INOKORI'...?

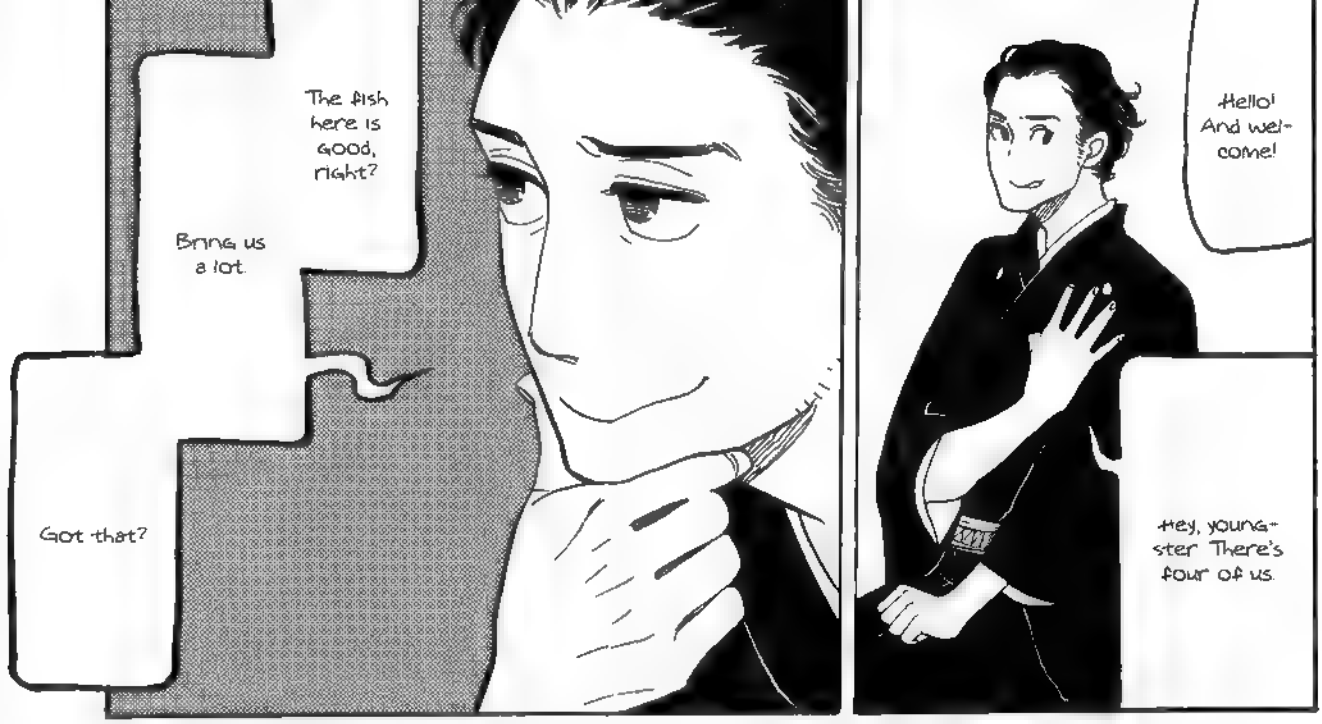
*TN: INOKORI - MEANING TO STAY BEHIND, PAST THE EXPECTED TIME.



What was it that you wanted to talk to me about?
Brother Saheiji!
Oh yeah.
We should go have some fun and spend our money to better our luck!
Let's all go down south since we haven't been there in a while.
South? Are you talking about Shinagawa?
Yeah.

*TN: 1 RYO = 1000 USD.

*TN: MEANINGLESS JAPANESE WORDS IN A SONG TO ESTABLISH RHYTHM. SIMILAR TO "LA LA LA".



Also, we're not the kind of folk who just drink sake.
We're just simple folk.
The only thing impressive about this is the plate!
We don't want any dishes that just have little bits of fish lying around here and there, okay.
We're the kind who bathe in it

TN: THE SHAMISEN USES CAT LEATHER ON BOTH SIDES OF ITS BODY, SO GEISHAS STARTED BEING REFERRED TO AS CATS

SAHEIJI WHO ACTS PATRONIZINGLY TO HIS FRIENDS AS THEIR SENIOR.
Wa Ha Ha Ha Ha
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha
SAHEIJI, WHO EATS AND DRINKS BEYOND WHAT THEY CAN AFFORD,
AND, EVEN KNOWING HE LACKS THE MONEY TO PAY, SHRUGS IT OFF AND TRIES TO TALK HIS WAY OUT OF IT
SAHEIJI, WHO STAYS BEHIND TO START WORKING FOR THE BROTHEL TO PAY OFF HIS DEBT AND ACTS ALL AMIABLE IN FRONT OF THE CUSTOMERS.
HE NEEDS TO PORTRAY SEVERAL DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE SAME PERSON WITH AN EDOKKO FLAIR.
SAHEIJI, WHO SWINDLES THE PROPRIETOR OUT OF HIS MONEY AND CLOTHING AND RUNS AWAY.
AND THERE ARE MANY MEN WITH SIMILAR PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS WHO APPEAR IN THE STORY TOO.

IF HE CAN MASTER A GREAT STORY LIKE THIS,
JUST HOW FAR WILL HE END UP GOING?
I'd reeeeaally like to pay, right here, right now.
But I'm broke
I don't know if it's some sort of curse, but whenever I talk to him,
I wind up getting tricked
Well because!
I told you so Why didn't you settle this sooner?!

He was quick-witted, a great drinking partner diligent, and a great flatterer
It was as if he was the perfect bootlicker
Because he was an inokori, they called him Ino-don
By taking advantage of the confusion that he created, he was able to start working upstairs
He soon became a popular and familiar face to everybody at the brothe.

Hey~ Im going to go outside to have some fun for a while
In the meant me, could you go to the customer in the 8th room and keep him company?
I'll give you some pocket money
Yes, ma'am.
Ino-don

Excuse me, sir! Coming in!
Oh, okay! Very well, miss.
Have a good trip!

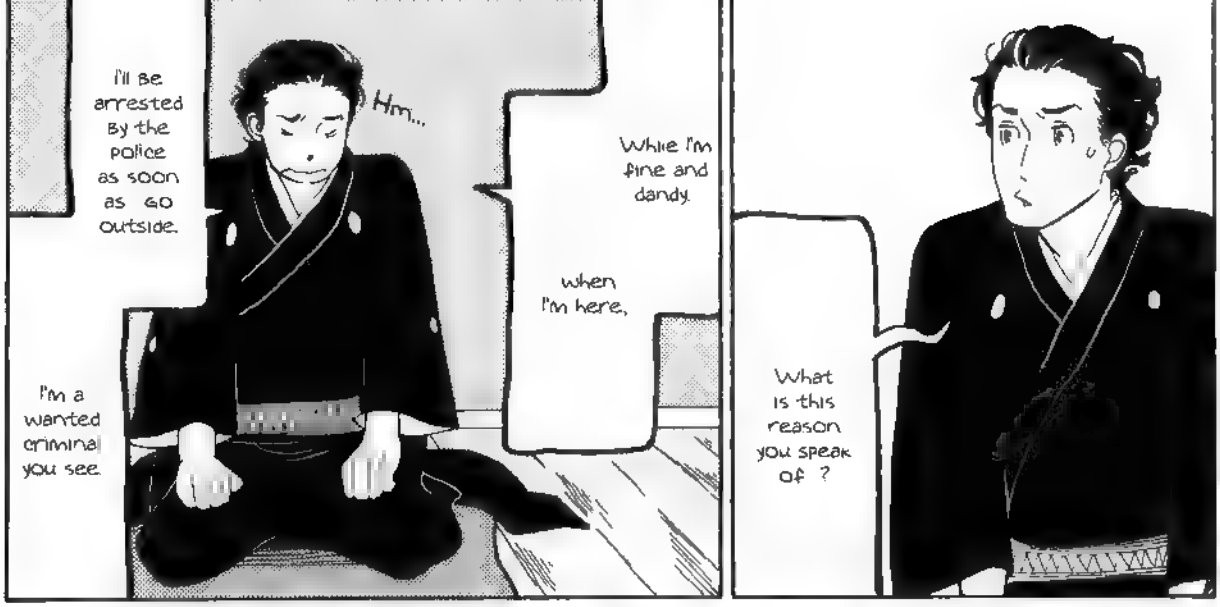
Oh, sir! Long time no see.
A while ago, one of our courtesans was saying that you stopped coming here.
She was tearing up.
You're the culprit, sir, you know that?
Oh you're so quick.
I got some from next door
Ino-don, could you get me some water?
Yes, ma'am!
Ino-don, we need some charcoal over here~
Yessir~
Write the greeting for your letter?
Write the address too?
You wanna hear a funny short story?
Fix something broken?
Yessir
..and just like that, he became greatly in demand.
But the younger workers weren't about to have any of that

You gotta be kidding me! If he stays here much longer,
we'll all lose our jobs.
I've told the master that he's setting a bad example as well.
SUMOROKU
I'm the proprietor of this place...
...and I've heard the whole story from the younger workers.

.....
Thank you very much.

But, I.
There's a reason I can't leave this place.

You've worked so much that it wouldn't be right to make you keep working to pay off your debt.
There's no point in you working here forever
I'll wipe the slate clean. You can go back home now.


I'll be arrested by the police as soon as I go outside.
Hm...
While I'm fine and dandy.
when I'm here,
I'm a wanted criminal you see.
What is this reason you speak of ?

I've been light-fingered ever since I was a kid
I decided to take up travelling as my profession.
and I travelled around the west, ending up at Yoshino* mountain
and I became a delinquent after I ran away from home

*TN: LOCATED IN NARA PREFECTURE.

As soon as I step out of here, I'll be in unfamiliar territory. And I've not had much luck with money either
Sniff...
I don't want to cause you any further inconvenience. But
That's like a story for a play.
Huh.
Wa Ha Ha Ha

There's 30 ryo in this case. For God's sake, please take it and try to run away
Oh, thank you. But if I'm carrying this much money around with what I'm wearing, I'll stick out like a sore thumb
Maybe if you could provide me with your kimono too
Alright, fine
And your coat
Your belt too
And if it's possible could I have your wallet too?
Okay, okay.
WAHAHA
HAHA
HAHAHA
AHAHA
FUFUFUFU
AHAHAHA

Goodbye
Please send my best regards to everyone
Thank you very much
And my apologies for being so obnoxious

Aah.
♫ Eeehh...
Yoi To Kura
Yooi Yoi
♪
♪
Heeey, Ino-san!
Hey, he left
It'd be terrible if he gets caught in front of our place
Matsu-don go check on him

Oh, it's you, Matsu-don.
Let me say, I'm sorry for every-thing
Your master is a good man.
And when I say good, I mean stupid.
What do you mean stupid?!
Is it fine for you to be hanging around here humming?
What if you get caught?
If you're gonna keep working at a brothel, you gotta remember my face.
In Yoshi-wara, Senju, or anywhere else, I am unrivalled I am Saheiji, the man who makes a living as an inokori
Go back to the brothel and send my regards to your master.
So long!
Ah.. Damn, what a horrible bastard.
Master, we've got a problem...
What? He makes a living as an ino-kori?!
So I was conned?

Yes Master, the only thing he didn't take was the "silver" from your hair
WA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
CLAP CLAP
SHINUCHIIIII!
CLAP
CLAP
SCREEN
Thank you very much.
Thank you very much.
YOOOOOOOOO
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
I DID IT! I DID IT, KID!

THAT WAS GREAT. THAT WAS REAAALLY GREAT!!
SUKI YAKI
HAT-SUITA.
WE NEED TO HAVE A TALK.
COME BY MY PLACE AFTER-WARDS.
OKAAAY. OKAYOKAY OKAYOKAYOKAYOKAY OKAYOKAYOKAAY~
ONCE IS ENOUGH!

KIKU,
ARE YOU GOING HOME?
YEA... I GUESS.
TOMORROW'S YOUR DAY OFF. GET SOME REST.
Sigh

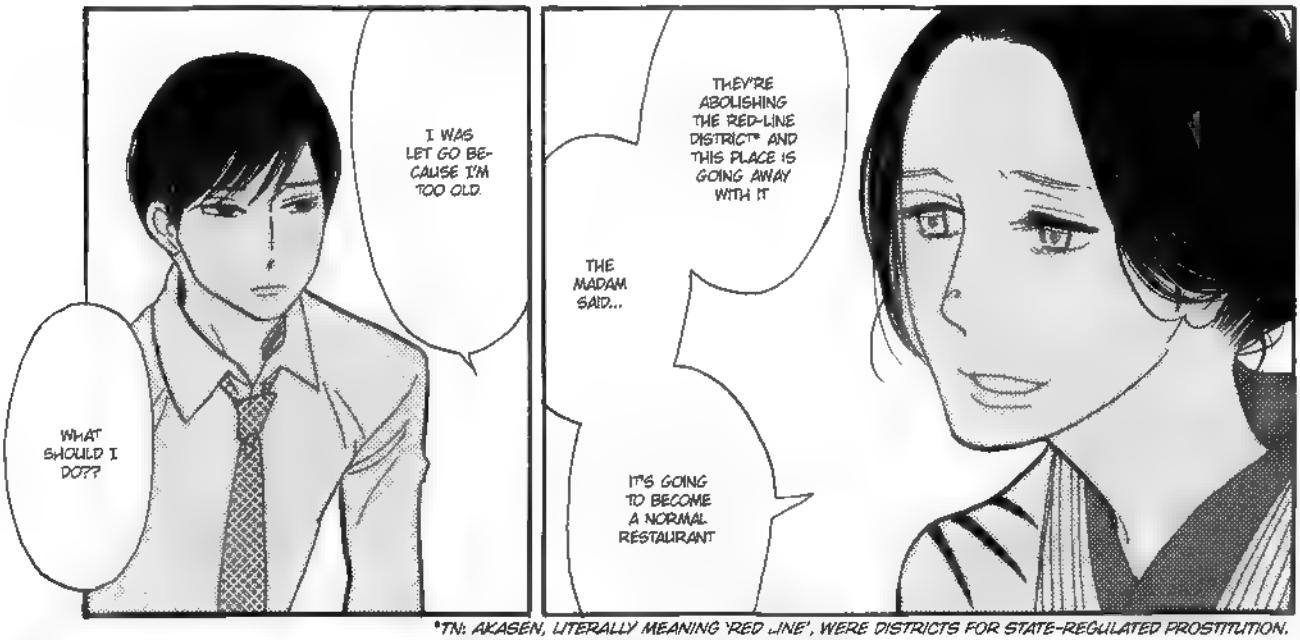
KIKU-SAN!

SHE'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU FOR A LONG TIME, YOU KNOW?

I'M SORRY. I REALLY WANTED TO GO AND CELEBRATE.
BUT, WE'VE ALSO HAD A LOT GOING ON, SO...

KIKU-SAN
I'M SURPRISED. WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I'M SORRY THAT I COULDN'T COME TO THE CEREMONY.
I SAW A FLYER FOR IT THE OTHER DAY.
I HAD NO FREE TIME DURING THE CEREMONY.
I'M SORRY THAT I COULDN'T SEE YOU FOR SO LONG.

AM I RIGHT?
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR FAREWELL.
I'VE BEEN PRAYING THAT YOU WOULDN'T COME.
CAN I DO ANYTHING I WANT?
YOU CAN HIT ME OR...
YOU CAN BERATE ME ALL YOU LIKE.
I CAME HERE PREPARED TO LISTEN TO THAT ALL NIGHT


I WAS LET GO BECAUSE I'M TOO OLD.
WHAT SHOULD I DO??
THEY'RE ABOLISHING THE RED-LINE DISTRICT* AND THIS PLACE IS GOING AWAY WITH IT.
THE MADAM SAID...
IT'S GOING TO BECOME A NORMAL RESTAURANT

*TN: AKASEN, LITERALLY MEANING 'RED LINE', WERE DISTRICTS FOR STATE-REGULATED PROSTITUTION.

IT'S A NICE PLACE. A HOT SPRING TOWN IN SHIKOKU, SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS.
I COULD MAKE A LIVING THERE PREYING ON ALL SORTS OF OLD MEN...
I DON'T HAVE ANY RELATIVES LEFT THERE, BUT AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE THE EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE I DO HERE.
MAYBE I SHOULD GO BACK TO MY HOMETOWN.
NO, THAT'S TOO MUCH WORK.
YOU COULD BECOME A SINGER. YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BE ON STAGE.

Grab
KIKU-SAN, PLEASE!
LET'S RUN AWAY TOGETHER, OKAY?
YOU ALWAYS SAY THINGS LIKE THAT TO TRY TO TEST ME...

THAT'S THE KIND OF AGE WE'RE GOING TO FIND OURSELVES IN THE FUTURE.
AN AGE WHERE MEN AND WOMEN ONLY LIVE FOR THEMSELVES.
IF YOU DON'T ACQUIRE THE FLEXIBILITY TO BE ABLE TO LIVE BY YOURSELF...
...AND ALWAYS DEPEND ON SOMEBODY ELSE, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD UP WHEN THAT SOMEBODY DISAPPEARS.

YOU DON'T EITHER.
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW MY REAL NAME.
SO WHAT? ARE YOU JUST GOING TO LECTURE ME ABOUT HOW I LIVE AS IF YOU'RE SO GREAT?

MAYBE I SHOULD DIE AND COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU AS A GHOST?
I'LL GET MY REVENGE ON YOU.
Gulp
STOP IT! IT'S PISSING ME OFF!
IS THIS FUNNY TO YOU?!
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

THE NEXT TIME WE MEET WILL BE IN HELL!

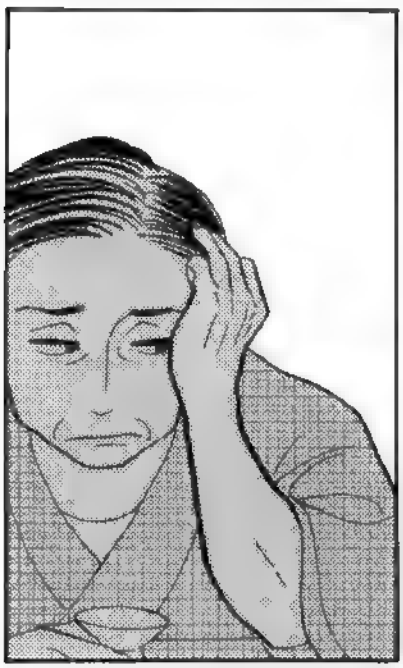
MASTER, AREN'T YOU DRINKING A LITTLE TOO MUCH?

DID SHE RUN AW...
TO RECOVER.
SHE FELL SICK, SO SHE WENT BACK TO HER HOME-TOWN.
WHAT HAP-PENED?
IT'S FINE. THE WIFE'S NOT HERE.
It's only Matsuda-kun and me here. Just the two of us.

I APOLO-GIZED AGAIN AND AGAIN, BUT...
I GOT CHILLS DOWN MY SPINE WHEN YOU PERFORMED THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIALTY RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM.
ANYWAY, WHAT WAS THAT SHIT YOU PULLED UP ON STAGE TODAY?

YOU FOOL...
..YOU SHOULD'VE DONE THAT AT YOUR OWN RECITAL. NOT AT THE CERE-MONY...
I JUST PERFORMED A BIG STORY...
..THAT I COULDN'T WHEN I WAS JUST A FUTA-TSUME.
IT'S WHY I BECAME A SHINUCHI, AFTER ALL.

BUT THE AUDIENCE ENJOYED IT!
CHRIST, YOU'RE HOPELESS...
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE PUTTING YOUR BACK AGAINST THE WALL, DOING OUTRAGEOUS THINGS LIKE TELLING A DIFFERENT STORY EVERY PERFORMANCE
nag
nag
nag
nag



THE GREAT THING ABOUT THE AUDIENCE IS THAT YOUR APPEARANCE OR IMPRESSION DOESN'T MATTER,
BECAUSE THEY'LL LAUGH REGARDLESS IF SOMETHING'S FUNNY ENOUGH

Heh!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING?
I BARELY TAUGHT YOU ANYTHING.

NOW **THAT** WAS A MASTERPIECE.
MASTER!
OF ALL THE STORIES YOU TAUGHT ME, THAT WAS THE ONE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO PERFORM THE MOST.
I LOVE HOW **YOU** TELL THAT STORY THE BEST!

WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT IS HARMONY BETWEEN ONE ANOTHER
RAKUGO IS SOMETHING THAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO PROTECT TOGETHER
BUT
YOU'RE MY LAST APPRENTICE
I WANT TO LOOK AFTER YOU

IT'S BEAUTIFUL ISN'T IT?
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL HARMONY
OUR ANCESTORS HAVE BEEN TELLING THESE STORIES THROUGH WORD OF MOUTH, GENERATION AFTER GENERATION.
PASSING THEM ALONG TO THE YOUNG, ASKING NOTHING IN RETURN.

A RAKUGOKA'S DUTY IS IN THE THEATRE SO STOP THINKING OF GETTING INVOLVED WITH THOSE KINDS OF THINGS.
THINGS LIKE TV ARE WHAT THEY CALL A 'BAD INFLUENCE'
IF YOU ONLY DO AS YOU PLEASE, THERE WON'T BE HARMONY

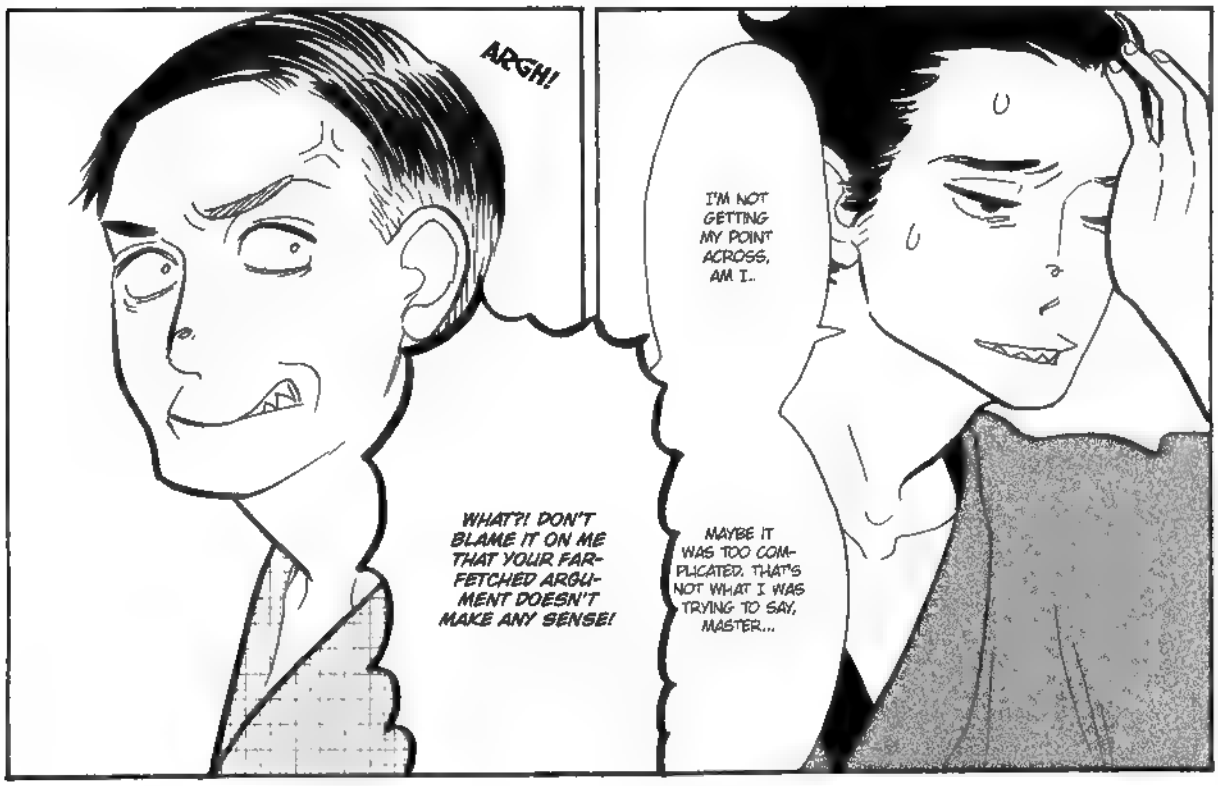
ARE YOU SAYING THAT WE SHOULD JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH THIS BEAUTIFUL THING DISAPPEAR?
THAT IF WE JUST STAY QUIET AND DO NOTHING, THE AGE WHERE PEOPLE GO TO THEATRES WILL COME TO END.
I CAN SEE IT

ALREADY, IN ANY HOUSEHOLD, YOU CAN JUST TURN A LITTLE KNOB AND THE TV WILL COME ON.
A LOT OF NEW THINGS HAVE COME FLOODING IN,
AND CHANGED JAPAN INTO A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT COUNTRY.
THE NUMBER OF CHOICES FOR ENTERTAINMENT ARE OVERWHELMING.

WHAT SHOULD THE THEATRE BECOME IN THE FUTURE?
IT SHOULD NEITHER CONFORM TO NOR SHOULD IT DIFFERENTIATE ITSELF FROM THE NEW.
IT SHOULD LIVE ON AS SOMETHING ENTIRELY UNIQUE.

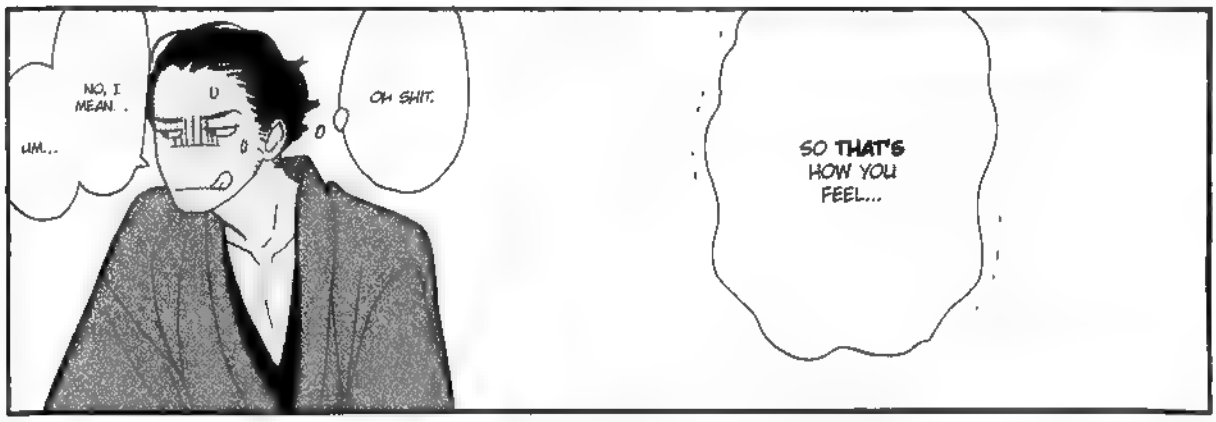
I WANT TO FIND A WAY FOR RUROUNI TO SURVIVE
I BELIEVE IT'S POSSIBLE
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING CONTRADICTS WHAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY DOING

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO DESTROY SOMETHING THAT YOU ADORE SO MUCH?


ARGH!
WHAT?! DON'T BLAME IT ON ME THAT YOUR FAR-FETCHED ARGUMENT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
I'M NOT GETTING MY POINT ACROSS, AM I..
MAYBE IT WAS TOO COMPLICATED. THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS TRYING TO SAY, MASTER...

NO GOOD EVER COMES FROM BREAKING THE MOLD!
THAT'S THE SAME THING, YOU NUMB-SKULL!
I'M NOT DESTROYING IT, I'M CHANGING IT!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING!

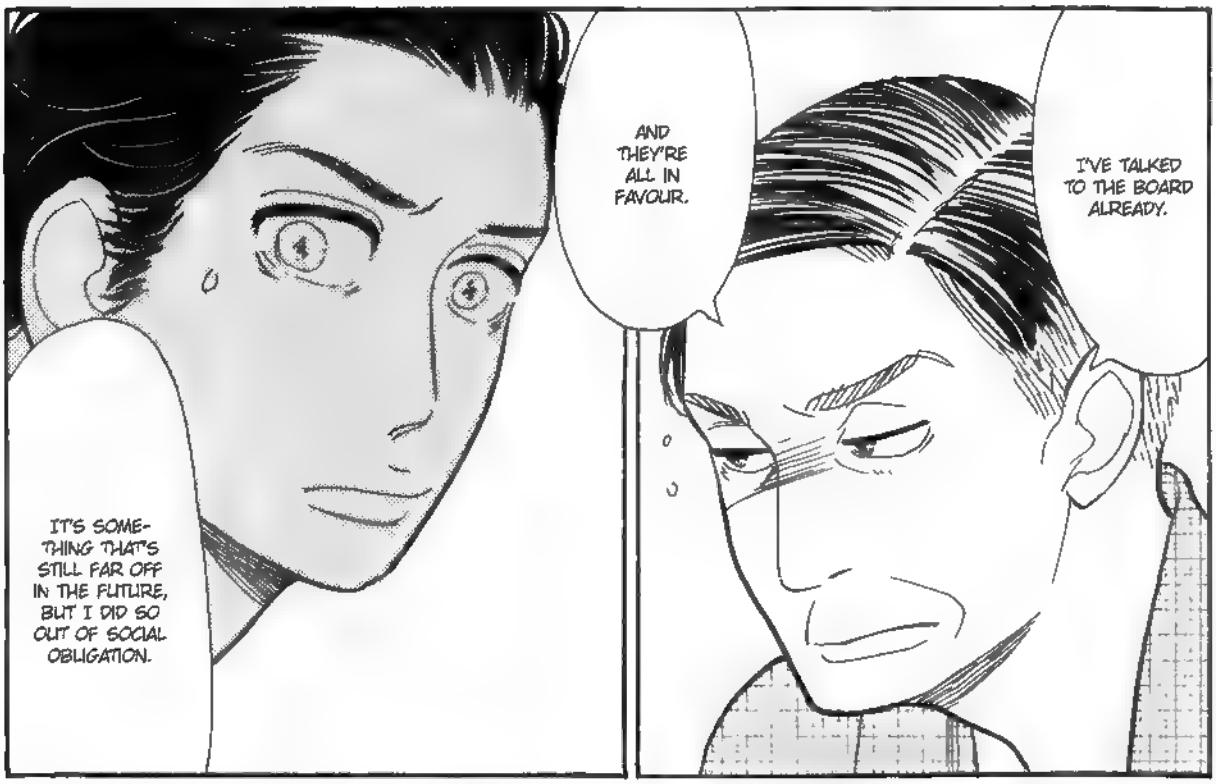
THIS IS WHY YOUR RAKUGO IS SO OLD FA-SHIONED AND BORING!
FREEZE
WHAT DID YOU SAY...?


NO, I MEAN. . UM...
OH SHIT.
SO THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL...

Call me Ya-chan.
Ya-chaaan
Uhh...
NO,
NO.

YOU...
I'VE HEARD YOU'VE BEEN GOING AROUND SAYING THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE NEXT YAKUMO.

I'M GIVING IT TO KIKU.
Heh
LIKE **HELL** I'D EVER GIVE YOU MY NAME.


IT'S SOMETHING THAT'S STILL FAR OFF IN THE FUTURE, BUT I DID SO OUT OF SOCIAL OBLIGATION.
AND THEY'RE ALL IN FAVOUR.
I'VE TALKED TO THE BOARD ALREADY.

BUT I KNOW FOR SURE THIS NAME IS NOT SOMETHING THAT I CAN GIVE TO AN ASS LIKE YOU.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING I CAN DECIDE ON MY OWN.

HOW DARE YOU LAY HANDS ON YOUR OWN MASTER!!
GRAB

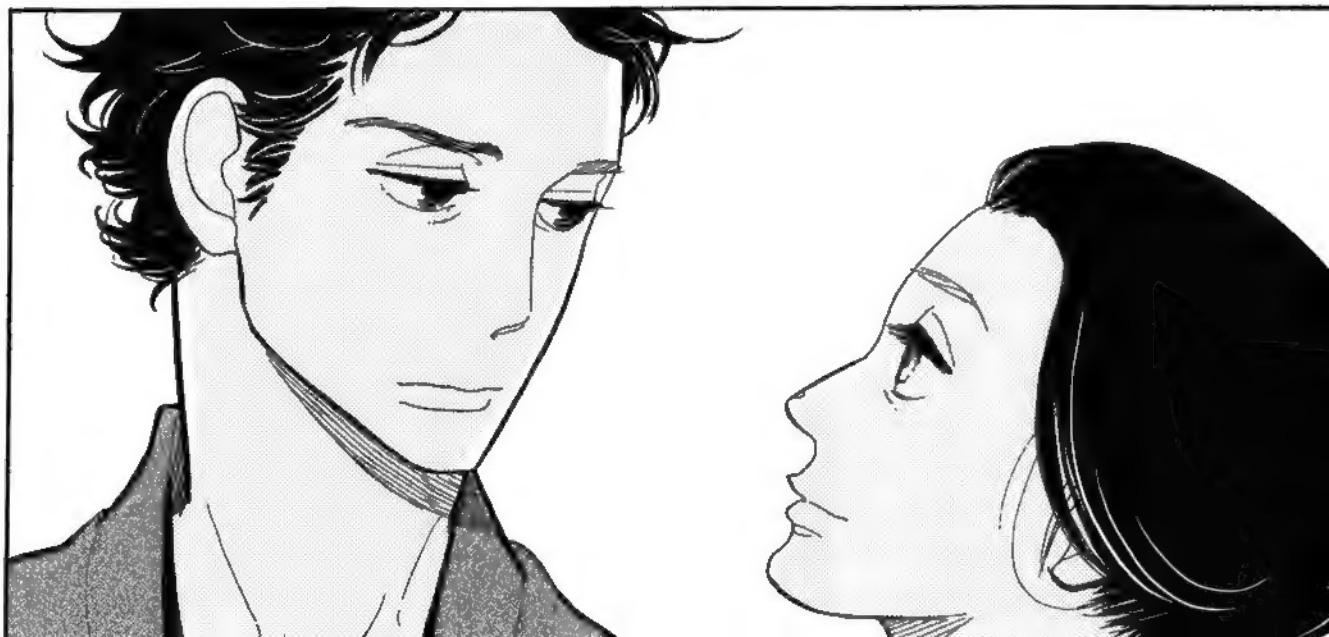
SINCE YOU WANNA LIVE FREELY SO MUCH, YOU'RE EXPELLED!
TRY SURVIVING ON YOUR OWN!
OUT! GET OUT!
DON'T EVER DARKEN THE ENTRANCE OF YURAKUTEI AGAIN!

BANG

Crunch

HEY.

*TN: SUKEROKU HANAKAWADO IS A RECURRING CHARACTER IN KABUKI.



I GOT DUMPED BY KIKU-SAN.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
YOU CAN TELL ME...